

1 WESTERN INTERIOR REGIONAL
2 SUSBSITENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

3 Taken at:
4 Millenium Hotel
5 Anchorage, Alaska

6 October 11, 2001

7 ATTENDANCE

8 Council Members Present:

9 Ron Sam, Chair
10 Ray Collins, Vice Chair
11 Jack Reakoff, Secretary
12 Sampson Henry
13 Angela Demientieff
14 Benedict Jones
15 Carl Morgan

16 Coordinator:

17 Vince Mathews

18 Others Present:

19 Tom Kron, OSM; Rob Simmons, FWS; Dave
20 Andersen; Orville Huntington; Ida Hildebrand,
21 BIA; Jeff Denton, BLM; Hollis Twitchell, NPS;
22 Geoff Beyersdorf, FWS; Bill Schaff, Innoko
23 Wildlife Refuge; Bob Schulz, Kanuti Wildlife
24 Refuge; Terry Haynes, Fish & Game; Taylor
25 Brelsford, BLM

1 MR. SAM: I'd like to call the
2 Western Interior Regional Subsistence Council
to order.

3 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman,
4 there's some business that we tabled, 0210,
5 which was proposals for some subsistence
6 fishing opportunities to be set out in the
7 closed areas of the Dalton Highway corridor.
8 I would like to read a directive to the staff
from the Western Interior on approval of the
Western Interior Council. This will be a
directive from the Western Interior Regional
Advisory Council regarding 2002-10, the
tabling.

9 The Western Interior Regional
10 Advisory Council -- or actually Office of
11 Subsistence Management staff to consult with
12 the State of Alaska working out a strategy
13 for allowance of subsistence fishing in the
14 closed areas of the Dalton Highway corridor,
15 including the Middle Fork, South Fork, and
16 the Jim River. The intention of this
directive is to provide a very limited human
consumption use of nonsalmon species, hook
and line and limited time frame use of
stretch -- three-inch stretch gillnet to be
used and size limit eliminations for grayling
should be sought for human-only subsistence
uses within these waters.

17 MR. SAM: So is this --

18 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to
19 have approval of this directive from the
20 council to the staff so they can seek working
out regulatory -- joint regulatory proposals
that we can -- in agreement with the state on
uses, subsistence uses, of those waters.

21 MR. SAM: Is that a formal
22 motion?

23 MR. REAKOFF: I make that a
24 formal motion.

25 MR. SAM: Is there a second?

MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

1 MR. SAM: Further discussion?
2 If you recall, we tabled that proposal
3 because we had some conflicts with the state,
4 right, Tom?

5 MR. KRON: There just hasn't
6 been a lot of time to work with the state on
7 these issues. There are a number of streams
8 that cross under the Dalton Highway. They
9 were closed back in the 1970s to subsistence.
10 Sport fishing has continued in those areas,
11 even though it's very small, and essentially
12 what we think probably should happen is to
13 have a discussion with the state -- there's a
14 lot of state jurisdiction here as well -- to
15 cooperatively develop an approach to reopen
16 subsistence through a conservative approach
17 protecting salmon but reopen subsistence in a
18 number of these areas. But I think to
19 initiate the process and the analysis to that
20 end would make good sense.

21 And I guess, Rod, do you have
22 any additional comments?

23 MR. SIMMONS: Yeah. Mr.
24 Chair, if I could --

25 MR. MATHEWS: Rod, you have to
 introduce yourself. We have a new recorder.

 MR. SIMMONS: My name is Rod
 Simmons. I'm with the Fish and Wildlife
 Service and serve on the Fish and Wildlife
 Service staff committee. Prior to that I
 used to be a fisheries biologist up in
 Fairbanks and spent some time up in that neck
 of the woods doing various fisheries
 sampling, and one of the first things I
 learned as a junior biologist about setting
 even small net gillnet up in those waters,
 particularly like in the South Fork, Koyukuk,
 and Jim River area, is even though we may be
 trying to target whitefish, which is actually
 what I was doing, was trying to collect
 whitefish samples, the difficulty of keeping
 chums out of your nets during spawning
 periods is extremely difficult; and quite
 frankly, I abandoned my sampling for
 whitefish because of the bi-catch of chums.
 Ethically it was the wrong thing to do.

1 And I would like to raise that
2 as a concern about trying to have subsistence
3 nets in spawning areas during -- at least
4 during the spawning period. These fish are
5 so highly developed in their tooth structure
6 that you can't keep them out of your nets,
7 even two-inch mesh. So I want to raise that
8 for my own personal experience on trying to
9 do net sampling in those waters during those
10 time periods.

11 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I
12 think maybe to respond to the wording that
13 Mr. Reakoff has just read to you, I think --
14 again, I think my sense is that the state is
15 receptive and they realize with a subsistence
16 priority that these systems need to be
17 providing some subsistence opportunity. The
18 resources are limited, and again, there's a
19 lot of state jurisdiction as well as federal
20 jurisdiction, so it makes sense to do it in
21 coordinated fashion. The next opportunity in
22 the state process would be in two years when
23 it comes up before the board of fisheries,
24 A1K comes up before the board of fisheries
25 again.

1 And I think essentially what
2 Fred Anderson and I were hoping to do when we
3 talked earlier about tabling Proposal 10 was
4 to be able to look at not only the two
5 systems addressed in Proposal 10 but a number
6 of other systems along the Dalton Highway
7 with the state and basically reevaluate each
8 of those.

9 I think Mr. Reakoff's proposal
10 focuses mainly, again, on the fresh water
11 species, the whitefish, the pike, for
12 example, and I think the wording makes a lot
13 of sense to get us moving in that direction
14 to get this straightened out.

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 MR. SAM: Thanks for that
17 clarification. It's also my contention that
18 if there is sports fisheries allowed, even
19 though we have that subsistence users if we
20 go and use that area, that we should have
21 subsistence rights too.

22 Any -- Vince.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr.
Chairman.

2 Jack, you were basically
3 asking that the staff develop comprehensive
4 proposals, and are you indicating both in the
5 federal and state arena on that? I believe
you are, but I'm trying to get it clear to
everybody. I think that's what you're
asking --

6 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

7 MR. MATHEWS: -- and not for
the decision on size of mesh or anything now,
8 that you want proposals that will come
forward that are closed areas now and then to
9 be opened up and then the proposals will go
through the full process, allowing everyone
10 to comment, right?

11 MR. REAKOFF: Right. That's
what my directive is stating, to work out a
12 strategy with the State of Alaska and the
Office of Subsistence Management.

13 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't hear
14 the State of Alaska part.

15 MR. REAKOFF: And these were
suggested methods and means.

16 MR. SAM: Any further
17 questions?

18 MR. ANDERSEN: I had a
question, Ron. My name is Dave Andersen.

19 Does it technically remain
open, because those regs are not on the
20 federal books, then, if we defer this two
years? We have this difference between state
21 regs and fed regs. Is it legal to
subsistence fish in there because you don't
22 have a prohibition under federal regs?

23 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman?
What you stated, Dave, is
24 exactly correct. Under federal regulations,
federal subsistence users in those two areas,
25 in the South and Middle Fork areas -- and
they're relatively small -- in those two

1 areas it's still legal for federal
2 subsistence users to subsistence fish in
3 there. I think we all think that there's
4 very limited activity, if any, going on, and
5 Mr. Reakoff thought it was closed, and it was
6 only through work from the fisheries resource
7 office staff that they discovered that this
8 had inadvertently been left out when they
9 tried to adopt the state regs in total for
10 those appropriate areas.

11 So that's the situation right
12 now, but again, I think what Fred Anderson
13 and I were hoping to do was allow more time
14 to work with the state on this. The state
15 has jurisdiction over the corridor areas,
16 plus there's a lot of state land, BLM land
17 that isn't within conservation units, and the
18 hope was that we could jointly work together
19 to come up with an approach that makes sense
20 relative to resource and subsistence
21 priority.

22 MR. ANDERSEN: I think that's
23 a great idea. I wanted to clarify that by
24 deferring this we still have this conflict
25 between state and federal law, and I wasn't
clear whether, just because you guys left it
off your books, it was an oversight, but that
means that it's open.

16 MR. KRON: It's open. And
17 basically, the joint councils by joint action
18 tabled it, and in doing so, the joint three
19 Yukon regional councils essentially left it
20 opened for right now, but again, the intent
21 is over the next couple of years to get it
straightened out so we can go before both the
federal and the state board hopefully with a
joint proposal to do what makes sense
relative to the subsistence priority and the
resources in that area.

22 MR. SAM: Any further
23 questions? We do have a motion on the floor
24 which is seconded. Hearing no further --

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: I was going
25 to suggest -- I'm Orville Huntington -- the
fish traps are the only way you can't get
those salmon. No matter what you do with the

1 net, you're going to catch those salmon; but
2 if you use our fish traps, then you can get
whitefish, nonsalmon species.

3 MR. SAM: Any further
4 questions? Discussion? If not, all those in
5 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
Opposed, same sign. Motion carried.

6 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,
7 that puts us a little bit back on agenda.
8 You have the minutes before you. I think I
9 can help you streamline that if you desire
10 that. They're under Tab H-1. What I mean by
11 streamlining is you did receive these in the
12 mail. These are the ones when you met in
13 separate session followed by the time you met
14 jointly with Eastern Interior. One option
15 would be that you review them and pass them
16 or you just -- any corrections or go with
17 them as stand or defer them to the next
18 meeting. I would not recommend deferring
19 them to the next meeting, but that is an
20 option to save time.

21 MR. SAM: What's the pleasure
22 of the council?

23 MR. MATHEWS: You should have
24 gotten them in the mail this past summer. I
25 know they're lengthy, but you covered a lot
of topics.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I
move to defer reading and approve them.

MR. REAKOFF: Second.

MR. SAM: There's a motion to
defer reading and approve them as they are.
Any questions? Discussion? If not, all
those in favor of the motion signify by
saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion
carried.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,
that brings us up to the next topic. Now,
yesterday we gave you the background
information on customary trade regulations,
and jointly you agreed to Part 1, which is

1 saying trade between rural users be not
2 limited, and Part 3 -- I don't remember the
3 tab -- Part 3 was that they could not -- you
4 could not sell to a commercial or trade to a
5 commercial enterprise. You left on the
6 table, I suppose for discussions, was if you
7 wanted Part 2, the thousand dollar limit that
8 if you were to trade for cash salmon caught
9 within Western Interior to someone outside
10 the region -- I assume it's still region --
11 that you would -- it's not outside rural.

12 MR. COLLINS: Someone who is
13 not a subsistence user, a nonsubsistence
14 user.

15 MR. MATHEWS: That part of it
16 is before you to go with the recommendation
17 of the task force. Ray will handle the
18 discussion from here since he played a key
19 role with it. Or come up with something
20 different. You have that option now to do
21 that, to say you would like something
22 different. You will also have -- this will
23 be back before you in final rule in your next
24 meeting, but it would be best for the task
25 force, for Ray -- you're a member -- to know
26 what your feelings are about this Part 2, the
27 thousand dollar limit, so when he goes there
28 and gets all the reports from ten regions he
29 did defend -- well, that's not the word. He
30 can share your position on this topic. And
31 that's under Tab F, and if you want to look
32 at the parts of it, you would turn to the
33 page 3, and we're basically looking to that
34 middle section that's called A-12.

35 MR. SAM: Ray, when is your
36 next meeting?

37 MR. COLLINS: I thought I
38 heard him say November 2nd yesterday. But I
39 thought we were going to meet in December.
40 But he mentioned something about November
41 2nd, so it's coming up fairly shortly.

42 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't catch
43 that. I just know that I have to get in all
44 your comments by November 1st.

45 I think, Ray, it's --

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: It's
tentatively scheduled for the second week of
2 November.

3 MR. COLLINS: Second week of
November.

4 MS. HILDEBRAND: But that's
5 tentatively.

6 MR. SAM: November 2nd. Okay.
Can we call for a conference on this?

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Let me think
aloud here. If you're just talking to share
information and not pass a recommendation,
9 yes, we can consider that kind of just a work
session. You're not at the recommendation
10 phase. Yes, we could do this by
teleconference, but, boy, all you guys are
11 very busy, and I don't want to push you into
this. That's not my point. My point is if
12 we try to do a teleconference, we probably
won't get this high level, and then we'll go
13 piecemeal, and then Ray is going to have a
basket of apples that he's going to have to
14 sort through. If possible, it would be good
to do it now, but we can do it by
15 teleconference.

16 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I
could limit my comments, and then if you have
17 feedback now, you could give it to me. If
not, you could write something to me
18 afterwards. But if you want me to comment on
that issue.

19
20 MR. SAM: Go right ahead,
because the reason I was looking to defer to
teleconference is I still have problems with
21 any kind of dollar figure, and I think I will
continue to have problems on dollar figure,
22 but go ahead and make that --

23 MR. COLLINS: That's why we
separated the issue out, so that if it's
24 between rural residents, so any other
subsistence users, there's no dollar limits,
25 because we realize there's sale between
regions and within regions of subsistence

1 resource.

2 The reason I want to get a
3 handle on it is there is the potential,
4 especially along the road corridors, to start
5 selling to tourists and a lot of other
6 people, and you can get a lot of money
7 involved. And then the resource is not going
8 to people who traditionally subsistence; it's
9 going to others who even commercialize it.
10 So the third part that you approve there
11 stops that so that somebody who is in a
12 business has a fish license. They have to
13 buy it. They can't buy your subsistence
14 strips and resell them. So they can't get
15 into business that way.

16 So the question is, should
17 there be a limit, then, on sales like when
18 you sell in Anchorage to AFN to nonrural
19 residents? And they came up with a thousand
20 dollar figure, and that's per individual. So
21 if you've got a household of four,
22 potentially you could sell four thousand
23 dollars' worth of subsistence food to non,
24 and there would be no limit to other rural
25 residents. But in some areas they thought
that that might be too much or there might be
other fish than salmon that come in, because
in some areas they sell whitefish and so on,
so regionally -- the regional councils may
submit proposals for monetary caps for other
fish, so on, but the only one this speaks to
is salmon.

17 So I guess if we would just
18 focus on salmon strips now, do you think that
19 a thousand dollars is a reasonable limit per
20 household member for sale to people who
21 aren't other subsistence users selling in
22 town and so on, or should it be less, more?
23 That's kind of what the issue is.

21 MR. SAM: Yeah. That -- the
22 reason I have problems with this is that I
23 know that -- like at the AFN I bought fish
24 from people I know that weren't subsistence
25 fishermen, and I also bought fish from people
that were subsistence fishermen at North
American in Fairbanks, and I was wondering if
we're opened up -- opening up a can of worms
or limiting our people versus other people
or -- if you know what I mean.

1 MR. COLLINS: Right. Your
2 purchase, though, would be covered under the
3 first one. You're buying from another
4 subsistence user. You can buy any amount you
5 want and they can sell any amount they want.

6 MR. SAM: I think that's fair.

7 MR. COLLINS: That's why it
8 was separated. But if they're a
9 nonsubsistence user, they shouldn't be
10 producing strips unless they've got a
11 commercial license to do that.

12 MR. SAM: And I know this
13 problem exists, because I know these people
14 weren't subsistence users, and I think that's
15 one of my hang-ups, and that's where I don't
16 know what direction to take at this time.
17 Ida.

18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
19 on that particular issue, during the
20 discussions of the task group, Ray is correct
21 that if you are not a subsistence user and
22 you're selling subsistence fish, technically
23 you can be arrested and charged under the
24 state regulations that are already on the
25 book, and rather than make all subsistence
26 users have to comply with the state health
27 regulations, which means you would have to
28 have a smokehouse like Sidney Huntington on
29 the Yukon, and it's very strict regulations
30 to be able to sell subsistence fish if you
31 are not a subsistence user.

32 But if you are a subsistence
33 user and you catch your subsistence fish, any
34 way you preserve it, and you brought it
35 anywhere and you sold it to another qualified
36 subsistence user, there is no limit. But if
37 you are selling as a subsistence user
38 anywhere to nonsubsistence users, that is
39 when they request some kind of a limit or
40 some kind of precaution that, for instance, a
41 subsistence user wouldn't take his whole
42 entire subsistence catch and sell it. I
43 think there's already a regulation that
44 prohibits that.

45 But the general federal
46 regulation is that if you're fishing

1 subsistence, the first use is to go into your
2 home, and then there was some portion of your
3 subsistence take that you may sell, and this
4 is the part that was trying to be regulated.

5 MR. SAM: Any comments or
6 directives for Ray, council members?

7 MR. COLLINS: So if we take no
8 action, it will go in with a thousand dollars
9 now, and then we could still move to modify
10 that later if we needed to act in the future;
11 but if you want to modify it right now, there
12 is a window of opportunity to come in with a
13 different figure for our area.

14 MR. SAM: Vince.

15 MR. MATHEWS: This is a
16 question for Ray and for Ida. Say the
17 thousand dollars goes in. Can that be
18 changed through proposals through an annual
19 cycle process? As a staff person I wasn't
20 clear if that can be. So say in this year
21 you go for a thousand, after talking to
22 people you want to go to something different
23 than that, you would just submit a proposal?

24 MR. COLLINS: Probably have to
25 go through the whole federal process,
wouldn't it?

MS. HILDEBRAND: I think, from
the discussion of the task group, it's my
understanding of where the discussion was
going is that each region wanted to be
responsible for the decisions within their
region, but they wanted to monitor how they
were proceeding within a year to check
whether or not it was working, and then I
would suppose they would recommend
adjustments up or down to meet whatever was
happening or not happening in the region.

MR. MATHEWS: And they would
do that through a proposal, just like we do
with changing bear seasons?

MS. HILDEBRAND: I don't think
so, unless the board adopts this as the

1 regulation. After it becomes a regulation,
2 then yes. But until it's adopted, it's going
through this task force group process.

3 MR. MATHEWS: If it's
4 adopted -- it's going to be adopted next
May --

5 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's the
tentative time frame it's going to get
6 adopted from the federal process. The
discussion ends, but they are shooting for
7 May.

8 MR. SAM: So technically we
could stay with a thousand, other regions
9 could come in with two or three thousand, and
then it would stay at those figures for these
10 regions?

11 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, and if they
didn't work -- and Rod can jump in too. I
12 was talking to Ida because she's the staff
committee person, so that's why I'm seeking
13 her out on this. Yes, and then if it didn't
work, then you could submit a proposal. Just
14 like if you didn't like the moose season
starting on August 25th, wherever, you submit
15 a proposal to change it, you would submit a
proposal to change that amount for the
16 Western Interior Region. That's what I was
trying to get confirmed, and Ida seems to
17 agree. Once this, whatever this is, is
adopted into regulation, then it's subject to
18 annual proposal.

19 Rod, is that --

20 MR. SIMMONS: That's my
interpretation of it. Just like any other
21 regulations.

22 MR. SAM: The other reason I
wanted to stay with a thousand for the time
23 being is that when you couldn't -- when Ray
has that meeting on November 2nd, he can come
24 back to us and then we could adjust
without -- we could adjust without the
Federal Subsistence Board -- or before the
25 Federal Subsistence Board approval, right?

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Until the
comment period ends.

2 MR. SAM: When is that?

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Well, they're
4 hoping to get the first discussion to the
federal board for its first go-around in
5 December, and then they will create a
proposed rule, and then the proposal goes out
6 to the councils again for public review, and
then it becomes a final rule. And once the
7 final rule is adopted, then it becomes a
regulation, and then it goes through the
8 process like Rod is talking about. To change
it after that point you need to submit a
9 proposal.

10 MR. SAM: So if we take no
action right now, Ray could go in there with
11 a thousand and then we would have time to
react and re-adjust? Is that clear to all
12 the council? Do you want to change that
thousand dollar figure right now? I think we
13 would be safe staying with that thousand
dollar figure because we would have the time
14 frame that all proposals and all final
decisions be made is underlined with another
15 go-around coming up that we have another
chance to deliberate on this issue. Is that
16 clear with all the board members?

So do you want to make that in
17 a formal motion or just general consensus
that Ray goes in there with a thousand dollar
18 figure knowing that we can re-adjust if
needed?

19 Would that put you in the
spot?

20 MR. COLLINS: No. As long as
21 I know your position on this and direction.

22 MR. SAM: Yeah, and then you
intend that the task force know we're leaving
23 it at that figure simply because we feel that
we can adjust if needed. Would that be a
24 strong enough argument?

25 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Our only
area of concern is, is this figure going to

1 threaten the resource in any way, and do
2 we -- or do we feel that this figure is going
3 to lead to abuse? And I can't speak for the
4 communities who are selling it. They have to
5 think about who they're selling to and so on.
6 If you don't think there's any abuse or it's
7 not threatening our resource, and that's what
8 Jack was alluding to, in fact, a shortage --

9 MR. SAM: Still people were
10 abusing it, and I know they were abusing it
11 above that thousand dollar limit. That's why
12 I feel safe going in there with a thousand
13 dollar figure.
14 Ida.

15 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
16 for your information, from some of the other
17 councils' discussions, one council in
18 particular recommended that 50 or 60 percent
19 of any subsistence take has to stay within
20 the household for subsistence use before they
21 would even consider any sale of subsistence
22 use, fish or salmon, and other councils
23 adjust Number 3 to allow for some local
24 business outlet that elders and knowledgeable
25 people can get their subsistence, but it
wasn't for profit, market place, just an
exchange for the cost of getting the
resource.

MR. SAM: Jack, we put in
times of shortage cap. Do you remember what
that was?

MR. REAKOFF: On
teleconference I discussed when there was a
subsistence constraints to the subsistence
fishery, that I felt that that resource
should not leave that region, or adjacent
regions, or at least within the Yukon
drainage. If there's subsistence
constraints, I felt that that resource should
not be sold outside of those areas, and that
was what I was discussing this springtime.

MR. SAM: And last year that
was the issue we were facing, shortage. Do
we still have that on the books?

1 MR. MATHEWS: Jack captured it
2 right because I took the notes on that
3 teleconference, so you could -- I mean, you
4 can go with a thousand and wait and see or
5 you can incorporate it now, the language that
6 Jack has just said, that in times of
7 subsistence closures or times of whatever you
8 want to define that as, that there be no
9 trade outside -- I think Jack said the
10 drainage last spring.

11 MR. SAM: Jack, would you want
12 to reintroduce that as a back-up along with
13 the thousand dollar figure?

14 MR. REAKOFF: Was that
15 discussed, Ray?

16 MR. COLLINS: It was discussed
17 there, but I didn't make a motion concerning
18 it. I expressed concern. I think you have
19 to look at the actual practice, but, for
20 instance, now, some Kuskokwim residents in
21 the Upper Kuskokwim, they buy their fish from
22 the Yukon, lower, and it's other subsistence
23 users -- myself in McGrath, we usually get
24 ours from the Holy Cross area. They're
25 better fish than they are down on the
Kuskokwim. And that's been going on for a
long time.

1 MR. REAKOFF: But it's still
2 within the region.

3 MR. COLLINS: It's within the
4 region, yeah. But if you're using drainage,
5 it wouldn't be. So it gets kind of difficult
6 to word something that would work in our
7 area. So I guess I would say, do we feel
8 abuse is going on? Is the resource being
9 threatened or do we feel there are abuses we
10 should address? If not, then we would wait
11 until there was an issue.

12 MR. SAM: If I remember right,
13 we, too, can define region to our benefit,
14 right?

15 MR. REAKOFF: My main issue is
16 sales to other -- sales outside to other.

1 That would be the main -- when subsistence
2 constraint, my main concern is that the
3 resources get sold to others.

4 MS. HILDEBRAND: In regards to
5 this discussion, Mr. Chairman, the discussion
6 that the task force raised the same concerns,
7 that the traditional practices, in fact, the
8 very language of to trade between, for
9 instance, the Northwest Arctic and Western
10 Interior and ANWR area, where they cross
11 regions, that when a resource, for instance,
12 in my area when chum was down, one chum had a
13 greater value for trading with the -- trading
14 with Inupiat for oils, seal oil or whale, and
15 they said if it was down they could sell it.
16 They wanted to be able to still sell it in
17 customary across regions, but it's still
18 rural to rural, and that's why they went to
19 that language, rural to rural.

20 MR. SAM: That's where I would
21 be concentrating in the middle because we
22 continue to this stage of trade with -- over
23 to Kobuk divide. That's historically
24 trade -- customers trade there. I don't
25 think that we would be abusing it.

26 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This
27 summer -- and this is only just kind of for
28 information purposes, but down on the Y-K
29 Delta there was concerns expressed last year,
30 this spring, that actually -- where this
31 particular limit or something was set. It
32 created actually on the kings a commercial
33 fishery that previously was nonexistent for a
34 lot of households because they saw it then as
35 a means of income that they really didn't
36 take advantage of in the past, so it actually
37 created -- and, in fact, in that case where
38 your fisheries are in trouble, it actually
39 increased the harvest of fish for commercial
40 purposes under the subsistence guise.

41 So there was quite a bit --
42 and I heard that in several communities,
43 expressed that this might -- there's two
44 sides to the picture here, and it can
45 actually cause damage to resource if you
46 don't have some thresholds set where you have
47 to limit that commercial, even within the

1 region. You can actually threaten the
2 resource in a situation you're in right now
3 in the Yukon. It could very definitely have
4 a big impact.

5 MR. SAM: Any comments from
6 council members? How do we feel right now?

7 MR. MORGAN: I believe we were
8 just discussing rural to others. We're not
9 discussing rural to rural.

10 MR. SAM: No.

11 MR. MORGAN: Right? So it
12 wouldn't matter if it's between the Yukon and
13 the Kuskokwim because it's still rural to
14 rural. Whether it's from Kuskokwim to North
15 Slope, it's still rural to rural. Right now
16 I think we're just discussing rural to
17 nonresidents, to nonsubsistence users. I
18 think that's what we're under discussion,
19 right?

20 MR. SAM: Right. So would
21 that thousand dollar figure be acceptable at
22 this time to --

23 MR. REAKOFF: I feel more
24 comfortable when there's subsistence
25 constraints that the sales to other be
very -- we should be very conservative or
less than that, because this is to others.
The thousand dollar limit is okay when
there's lots of resource, but when there's
not very much resource, then that resource
really shouldn't be sold to others, into the
cities, basically. That's the way I think
about it.

26 MR. SAM: So you still want to
27 tag on that --

28 MR. REAKOFF: I would like to.

29 MR. SAM: How does that stand
30 with council members? Because we had
31 teleconference on this and it went over
32 really well.

1 MR. HENRY: I didn't listen to
2 teleconference, but where we are right now
3 is, I think, at a thousand dollar limit for
4 the time being.

5 MR. SAM: Further comments
6 from the council?

7 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: I like what
8 Jack is saying. They really would like to
9 be, when it is written, be put in really
10 simple terms so that when you go into a home
11 in the village and you're talking about this
12 new thing that's coming down, that people
13 would have it in front of them to see what it
14 really means, especially the older people
15 because they don't understand. Not that
16 they're going to be selling fish or anything,
17 but so they will talk to their children and
18 the children will tell the grandchildren,
19 that everybody in that family knows this is
20 what we're going to do now, this is how it's
21 going to be, and I do like the thousand
22 dollar --

23 MR. SAM: For the time being?

24 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: For now, but
25 I want that time of shortage included too.

26 MR. SAM: We would also
27 request, what Angela is requesting, that what
28 I would like to do within the Western
29 Interior is do what we do right now. Every
30 piece of correspondence or every action we
31 take Western Interior hits every tribal
32 council out there, and then if we get in
33 trouble then on this issue, we would hit
34 every tribal council and ask them to disburse
35 that information through the council members,
36 but everybody can understand them. I think
37 we would request that further down the line,
38 if need be. Would you be safe with that?

39 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes. I feel
40 safe with it.

41 MR. COLLINS: So,
42 Mr. Chairman, if we put that word in "in,"
43 you've got to think of the implications. Say

1 there's family members from some of those
2 rural communities that are now living in
3 Anchorage, they're residents of Anchorage,
4 they're not subsistence users anymore, and
5 yet they still want their strips, and they
6 may be buying them from other family members
7 to help that family member so they can maybe
8 buy gas, but if you're saying in times of
9 shortage you can't do that, you can even
10 interfere with relations and families in a
11 sense between a rural resident and an urban
12 resident who is no longer involved. There
13 may be money involved in the exchange.
14 Usually they're gifts, but often the people
15 in town will pay for that so they can buy gas
16 and that type of thing. So that's why we've
17 got to be kind of careful with any wording
18 you come in you're putting restrictions that
19 can interfere with traditional practices.

20 So that's why I was focusing
21 on if you know there's some abuse that is
22 causing a problem on the resource, then we
23 should probably come in with some action. If
24 we don't, I would hesitate changing right
25 now.

1 MR. SAM: So for the time
2 being could we -- thousand dollar?

3 MR. REAKOFF: I think so.

4 MR. SAM: And then we've got
5 that as a back-up, I think. So council is
6 aware of it. Would that consensus or do you
7 want to put it in form of a motion that we
8 stay with the motion that we stay with the
9 thousand with the knowledge that we can
10 adjust and change as needed, if needed? Do
11 you want that in a form of the motion or just
12 a general consensus?

13 MR. MORGAN: Then what's the
14 window of time? After the subsistence board
15 acts, then we can't change it anymore. That
16 becomes -- we've got a window of time that we
17 can change it?

18 MR. SAM: Till May or June
19 2nd, yeah. Is that okay?

1 MR. MORGAN: Uh-huh.

2 MR. SAM: You know what we're
3 talking about, the time frame, May, June. I
4 think that we can work on it. We can work on
it, come back. I would then request that
this be brought to our meeting in March.

5 MR. MATHEWS: You'll have a
6 shot at it at the proposed rule. The minutes
will reflect the concerns expressed, and I
7 think you have consensus on the thousand?

8 MR. SAM: Yes.

9 MR. MATHEWS: So the minutes
would reflect that there is potential -- this
10 concern -- the concern is out there that
during times of shortage -- and Jack, you're
probably pretty aware that once this becomes
11 regulation, you or the council or others can
put in a special action due to shortage in
12 kind on this. So that would be another
avenue. It's not the cleanest, I understand
13 that.

14 MR. MORGAN: Also on that same
thing, times of shortage and/or abuse. I
15 don't know. Maybe we can put it as
certain -- maybe a certain triggering
16 mechanism. If this happens, then it trigger
fires, this is what happens, and other steps
17 can happen. We can work it out later.

18 MR. MATHEW: You'll have to
come in with very strong language at your
19 next meeting to do that.

20 MR. SAM: And precise.

21 MR. MATHEWS: And if that
doesn't reach to the board's favor, then
22 through the annual process you would be
bringing up proposals to do that.

23 MR. SAM: So consensus right
24 now is stay with a thousand, right?

25 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

1 MR. SAM: Any further
2 discussion?

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
4 I want to respond to a comment by Jeff, his
5 concern that the thousand dollar limit may
6 cause people to go and do this. It was a
7 concern raised by the task group, and it was
8 discussed pretty thoroughly that some people
9 may not have thought about it and may jump on
10 the bandwagon, but most of the councils are
11 adjusting the thousand dollar up and down,
12 and at the next meeting, looking at all the
13 councils' comments, they may well again come
14 up with new language.

15 MR. SAM: Yes. We will look
16 at that. I think that any kind of action we
17 take, whether to detract or advance, that we
18 create problems anyway. People will abuse
19 them whether you go up or down anyway. There
20 will be some abuse. It's a matter of finding
21 it and enforcing the laws behind this.
22 Because we have some advantageous people out
23 there. And I would like Ray to tell these
24 guys -- that come from the Yukon.

25 MR. HENRY: Mr. Chairman, last
winter or last fall I noticed one guy -- he's
not a subsistence user -- but he sold about a
thousand pounds of strips.

MR. SAM: That's another
meeting. It's a matter of finding these
people and trying to find a way to deal with
them. A lot of this stuff is unenforceable.

MS. HILDEBRAND: It goes back
to the comments that the council have been
making for three years now. If you see
abuse, record it on video, on film, report
it, take pictures.

MR. SAM: I don't lose my
source either.

MS. HILDEBRAND: I'm not
saying -- but I'm serious. If you see
abuses, this program is the means to have
these abuses addressed. There are state laws

1 that are already on the books that can be
2 enforced.

3 MR. SAM: So we've got
4 consensus for now?

5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

6 MR. SAM: Next.

7 MR. MATHEWS: Next is we go
8 into wildlife, and I'll be a little
9 flat-footed on this, Mr. Chair, because of
10 the magnitude of this meeting, but what I
11 mean by that is that you need to turn to Tab
12 H-2, and basically every year that this
13 meeting -- well, now every meeting. But we
14 come back to you with a letter telling you
15 what happened at the board meeting, and to be
16 honest with you, I need to confirm that you
17 received this letter in the mail because
18 they're starting to distribute them. It's
19 H-2. It's in the back of your book. And
20 I'll stop there. It's page 1 through 5.

21 If everyone has found it, did
22 you get this letter in the mail?

23 MR. SAM: Yes, I think I did.

24 MR. MATHEWS: That relieves me
25 a little bit. Because of the fact usually I
26 try to brief you on each of these, and I
27 didn't get time to do this, but basically
28 this is the report card back from the May
29 meeting, what happened with the
30 recommendations, and if you look at paragraph
31 2, you would see by consent agenda
32 practically all your proposals -- well,
33 that's not true. All your recommendations on
34 proposals were adopted by the board.
35 Proposal 26 wasn't, and I was trying quickly
36 to figure out why that wasn't listed. All
37 the other ones were consent agenda, so I
38 think we'll focus on 26 and we'll borrow
39 Ida's vast memory to fill in.

40 MS. HILDEBRAND: If you tell
41 me what the proposal was.

42 MR. MATHEWS: Proposal 26 was

1 submitted by you. On page 3 of --

2 MR. SAM: It wasn't.

3 MR. MATHEWS: It was consent
4 agenda?

5 MR. SAM: I can't remember.
6 But it wasn't submitted by us in the first
7 place. It was --

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: South
9 Central's.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right, and you
11 followed up the following year.

12 MS. HILDEBRAND: And you
13 deferred to the home region.

14 MR. MATHEWS: No. But what it
15 is, what -- we'll get over who submitted it
16 to the issue. I think that might be easier.

17 MS. HILDEBRAND: South
18 Central --

19 MR. MATHEWS: Started the ball
20 rolling with this one year, and it became a
21 statewide proposal and then you guys decided
22 to defer to the home region, I believe, or
23 the process deferred it to the home region.

24 MR. SAM: Didn't we just
25 delete our region from being considered under
this proposal? I think that is one of the
final actions. We weren't even considered
under this.

MR. MATHEWS: I think if we go
to the issue --

MR. BRELSFORD: Go to the
outcome.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you,
Taylor. The outcome on the question of
regulations to eliminate the requirement to
have portions of the external sex organs
attached for Units 19, 21, and 24, the board

1 adopted the proposal as modified by Western,
2 Eastern, North Slope, Y-K Delta councils to
3 allow the substitution of the moose head as
4 evidence of sex of a moose harvested. The
5 substitution of the possession of the head
6 would accommodate customary and traditional
7 use practices. So that's --

8 MR. SAM: That would take care
9 of it.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I'm just
11 telling you that that was one that was not by
12 consensus for some reason. All the other
13 ones were passed, and you have the letter in
14 front of you explaining it.

15 So this is your report card
16 back. In my earlier positions, the report
17 card used to be 30-70, where you would have
18 30 percent of -- these would be advisory
19 committees' recommendations being passed and
20 70 percent not. This one I would say you
21 were at a hundred percent of your
22 recommendations passed, but I would let the
23 record reflect I didn't have time to review
24 every item on here, but you're definitely 98
25 percent or higher, and that's partially
26 because of your diligence in working these
27 through and your active participation at the
28 board meetings to defend your recommendations
29 before the board.

30 MR. SAM: Plus with the
31 state's -- and the Federal Subsistence Board
32 knew that we were working with -- working
33 intensive management through the Koyukuk
34 River. Because that five-year plan was
35 incorporated into -- adopted by the Federal
36 Subsistence Board prior.

37 MR. MATHEWS: So that's the
38 topic of dealing with what we call the 805
39 letter. Congress required a written response
40 from the board -- actually, the secretary,
41 but the board in this case, explaining why
42 your recommendation was not adopted. We have
43 expanded that to give you an answer on all
44 your recommendations passed or not passed.

45 So that would bring us up to
46 the next issue, which is summary of proposals

1 submitted to date. Now, to save some time on
2 that, you need to go to H-2, which is right
beyond that.

3 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman?

4 MR. SAM: Yes.

5 MR. BRELSFORD: As we're
6 turning the corner from last year and the
success before the board and now looking to
7 next year and new changes in regulations, I
wonder if it would be possible to take a few
8 minutes and listen to Jeff Denton's
presentation about some wildlife surveys that
9 he's conducted. The council has often asked
the staff to go out and monitor some
10 resources, and maybe if you had Jeff's
information that would help in terms of the
11 status of some resources, and then you could
think about new issues and new regulations.

12 MR. SAM: Are we taking action
13 now?

14 MR. MATHEWS: Taking action?

15 MR. SAM: On any of this or is
this information?

16 MR. MATHEWS: You have --
17 based on direction from you, you may have two
action items for proposals. But I think they
18 will go very fast, because you directed me to
write a proposal, and it is well written, and
19 then there was another one to another staff
person, so I think that will go fast. I
20 think what Taylor is getting at, it may be
wise to solicit that information on survey
21 since it's timely.

22 MR. SAM: Go ahead, Jeff.

23 MR. DENTON: My name is Jeff
Denton. I'm with the Anchorage field office
24 of the BLM, and big chunks of the Western
Interior fall under our -- we have a lot of
25 lands in the Western Interior, and you're all
well aware of the GASH area situation there,
and we've been putting some effort in the

1 last couple of years of hunter distribution
2 over time as well as space out there. We're
3 trying to track quite a bit closer the
4 transporters as well as we can, as well as
5 the outfitters and their kill over there.
6 We're in the process of gathering a lot of
7 information there.

8 Surveys we did this fall
9 indicate -- and it was while we were doing
10 hunter surveys. This was in the middle of
11 hunting season as well -- is that you had a
12 very, very disastrous, I would say,
13 reproductive effort by moose in that region
14 this year. Very few calves are even around
15 this fall, let alone the ones that will be
16 left this spring. This is very predictable
17 in the high-water years out there.

18 When you have high water out
19 there, calf success and survival is extremely
20 low. This has always occurred out there, for
21 20 years or more I guess we've noticed that.
22 There is a lot of drowning of calves, there's
23 a few high areas that are left that all the
24 bears are sitting there waiting for the
25 calves as well. So there's several natural
factors that come into play there that cause,
basically, failure in reproductive efforts,
certainly in years you have these high-water
springs. This year I think was high water
all summer. So extremely high water. So
that's some of the things we'll get to deal
with when we work with the working group.

Also, the McGrath effort in
19(D) with the predators and moose recovery
plans, we're also doing surveys in the
surrounding units, in 19(B) and 19(A), and
we're also finding very low densities and
extremely low -- we did 19(D) last year and
it was dismal, densities as well as
reproductive efforts, terrible.

MR. SAM: What does this do
with our proposal that we have to consider?

MR. DENTON: I'm not sure.
You have to have Taylor explain that.

MR. SAM: From these three
proposals that we may have to take action on.

1 MR. MATHEWS: What this is
2 indicating to me, which I'll share internally
3 with my supervisors, is that when we take
4 fish and wildlife together, it's hard to
5 separate out. Traditionally -- that's a poor
6 term. Normally your fall meeting is where we
7 have all the agencies come and give you
8 fairly extensive reviews of their surveys and
9 their studies and etcetera on wildlife
10 issues, and then you may develop proposals
11 from it or whatever, and then in spring you
12 take them up.

13 Well, now our schedule has
14 fish plus wildlife and we're losing this
15 component, in my personal opinion, of this
16 good interaction from the people in the field
17 coming back to you to say, you told us, Jack,
18 or Sam, that there's some problems in your
19 area. We went out and checked, and here is
20 what we found.

21 And so that is why I think
22 Taylor is -- and Jeff are asking to share
23 that, because when we get to the decision
24 phase in March, it's a little late to get
25 that all done because the analysis has
26 already taken all that stuff and used it
27 towards a decision, not allowed you to learn
28 from it so much. You will learn then, but --
29 anyway, so that's where it's at.

30 So this does not relate to the
31 three proposals that are in front of you.
32 What we were passing out is informational of
33 what has been submitted. So this does not
34 relate -- unless something was passed out on
35 the area that I'm not aware of, it does not
36 relate to those proposals. It's giving an
37 update, because this council has spent many,
38 many meetings discussing the GASH area, and
39 that's why this is being presented.

40 MR. DENTON: So we're setting
41 up this working group for the GASH area.
42 That's on the agenda. That's, I think, a
43 high priority from several standpoints, but
44 the rest of Unit 19 is also -- my suggestion
45 at this point in time is when working with
46 Fish and Game on their moose recovery plan, I
47 think the problem is much broader than the
48 19(E) area they've indicated.

49 The Lime Village harvest last

1 year was probably 50 percent of normal, and
2 with these very low densities in moose we're
3 experiencing right now, they've been killing
4 50 percent cows year in and year out. That
5 may be part of the problem of the harvest
6 there, and all our local reproduction animals
7 are fading out of the picture. There's no
8 recruitment coming into these low density
9 areas. So I think we're far below densities
10 of moose that we can afford to be killing
11 cows.

12 And the Lime Village has a
13 bunch of special regulations that they're
14 dealing with with those. They have some
15 special privileges, I guess, under the
16 regulations, and it may, at this point, be
17 threatening the resource in that area. You
18 just -- with the densities we have in most
19 places in Interior Alaska, we cannot afford
20 to be taking cows in that kind of percentage
21 of harvest.

22 And so that's something that
23 you probably need to maybe talk to the folks
24 in Lime. I know they're concerned. Low
25 harvests setting in that area, and it's going
to continue and probably intensify and have
lower harvests down the road here because
there's no recruitment to the reproductive
population there. I think it's a serious
situation.

16 You've got populations here
17 with their back against the wall. We're
18 facing what I consider a crisis in moose
19 populations out there. I think it's a
20 definite crisis. I've managed wildlife in
21 four states and moose situations like this we
22 wouldn't be hunting in a lot of areas like
23 this, at all, in other states. So I really
24 think you folks are in this -- at least in 19
25 it's a population crisis that needs to be
looked at in very strong terms.

22 MR. SAM: Easy. Predator
23 control. Airplane, helicopter.

24 MR. DENTON: I think that's
25 part of it. That's not the cure-all. We
also see a lot of illegal kill. Whenever I
fly in these surveys, and I do them in March
and April, it's not in open seasons, and I

1 find people with kills. It's a given. I'm
2 going to find somebody with an illegal kill
when I do these surveys.

3 MR. SAM: So are you looking
4 for action right now?

5 MR. DENTON: No. I'm
6 providing you information for -- you guys
7 need to maybe be thinking about these things,
8 the possibility of working with Fish and Game
9 and so on and letting it be known that the
10 problem they're investigating working on in
11 19(D) in the one portion of it there extends
12 over a much wider area, and we've got
supporting data to support that.

13 MR. SAM: I think one of our
14 problems with -- one of our problems with
15 that area was not that we didn't recognize
16 these problems, is that we have so little
17 federal lands right surrounding these areas.
18 Wasn't that the reason?

19 MR. COLLINS: In a lot of 19.

20 MR. DENTON: In the study area
21 the Fish and Game is doing has only the
22 Fairwell area is involved in that. The areas
23 I'm talking about on both sides of the George
24 River country and the country around Lime
25 Village north to Big River are predominantly
federal lands. They are up to 80 to 90
percent of the land base. Habitats are
marginal in most of that country.

Even with the fires they're
not -- the fire habitats aren't recovering
after fire because the veg types just aren't
the type to recover from moose habitat. The
moose aren't responding to those burns at
this point either. So there's several things
going on out there, and I think you have a
very serious situation on your hands.

MR. SAM: So what kind of
directive are we getting, Vince?

MR. MATHEWS: This is
informational. He's providing you context
because some of you will be involved in this

1 GASH process, wherever it ends up going, and
2 Jeff is going to be a key person. That's one
3 area. The Unit 19 area is not a planning,
4 but you have jurisdiction over some of that
5 land, so that's why he's sharing that.
6 There's no action. This is just
7 informational at this time.

8 I think a couple -- Jeff has
9 been attending regularly the meetings, but
10 then there was scheduling conflicts and did
11 not, so he's capitalizing that he's available
12 now to share his expertise, and there are
13 other staff here that will be sharing
14 expertise, too, that we need to address.

15 MR. SAM: That was one of the
16 concerns I had with the restrictions
17 happening in 19(D) in hunting, and now we're
18 going to start in the GASH, and Unit 19(A)
19 and (B) are unrestricted, really. There's no
20 restriction. So anytime you make this
21 restriction in any part of the state, the
22 hunters move where it's -- it's unrestricted.
23 And I've got to share the information with
24 Jeff there, and I need some of that
25 information that you collected.

1 I know that up in Stony River
2 they asked for another ten-day extension on
3 the season, which was not going to be very
4 likely because of the low catch in moose, and
5 I've been hearing it from the village of
6 Nuakpolik (phonetic) all the way up to Stony
7 River that they are not catching -- the
8 locals are not catching moose.

9 MR. DENTON: To be perfectly
10 frank, they're just not there. That was one
11 of the grimmest surveys I've ever done. We
12 were seeing 11.3 moose per hour of flight
13 time, and a cow-adult ratio -- that's not
14 cow-calf ratio, but adult ratios are 13. So
15 cow-calf ratio you're probably looking at
16 closer to eight calves per hundred cows or
17 something like that. But when we did the
18 survey the bulls had dropped antlers, so you
19 couldn't distinguish sexes real well in
20 adults.

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman?

1 MR. SAM: Yeah.

2 MR. REAKOFF: Have you
3 cautioned Lime Village about that type of cow
harvest?

4 MR. DENTON: When they send in
5 their monthly reports, I send them some
6 material back and I make suggestions, but
7 basically they have the freedom to do
8 whatever -- however they want to harvest
9 there. So I make suggestions that under
10 these kind of circumstances we can suggest
that you try not to kill cows. How effective
that is, hard to say. The last report I got,
they only had killed one cow out of seven
moose, so they may be listening. I don't
know. But we'll see when the whole yearly
cycle files through.

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I
12 think since we went into the discussion on
13 that expertise and out of respect to other
14 agency staff that have been here, Hollis
15 Twitchell and I can't remember Geoff's last
16 name, and I apologize for that, they have
been waiting to present. Also, Hollis has a
topic and Geoff wanted to give you an update
that maybe out of respect to them we go to
those. They know it's short time. They know
they're going to focus on it.

17 MR. SAM: I've got a phone
18 call at 5:00 anyway.

19 MR. MATHEWS: We can move over
20 to another building, but we're hoping to end
by then.

21 MR. SAM: If I remember right,
22 all you're asking is a few minutes right now,
Hollis?

23 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

24 MR. SAM: Go ahead.

25 MR. TWITCHELL: The request
from the SRC is that you respond with some
sort of comments. South Central responded a

1 week before last, and they, by consensus,
2 have passed a motion to send a letter in
 their position in support of the SRC.

3 MR. SAM: Who would this
4 letter go to?

5 MR. TWITCHELL: It should go
6 to Florence Collins, who is the chair of the
 Subsistence Resource Commission.

7 MR. SAM: Denali?

8 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

9 MR. COLLINS: That's for the
10 residency, Cantwell?

11 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

12 MR. SAM: Thank you, Ray.

13 MR. COLLINS: I'll move that
14 we support the Denali SRC in their efforts to
15 obtain a three-year residency requirement for
16 Cantwell before individuals are recognized as
17 eligible subsistence users of the Denali
18 Park. That's a motion.

19 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

20 MR. SAM: Any further? The
21 question has been called for.

22 MR. COLLINS: And then in
23 the -- but in our comments there, I think we
24 need to request that a letter of support be
25 returned and that we view this as a
26 reasonable request in light of the growing
27 population and the time needed to become
28 familiar with local subsistence practices and
29 to demonstrate that they are not transient
30 residents. So there should be some rationale
31 for why we're doing it.

32 MR. SAM: You want to add that
33 to the motion, then?

34 MR. COLLINS: In our comments.
35 Not to the motion.

1 MR. SAM: Our cover letter on
2 why we took this action? Is that understood?

3 MR. MATHEWS: I'm seeing -- I
4 can't remember her name. She's captioning, I
5 guess.

6 MR. SAM: You can transcribe
7 that and we can draft a letter on that basis.
8 So we do have a motion which is seconded and
9 a question has been called for.

10 All those in favor of the
11 motion signify by saying aye. Opposed, same
12 sign. Motion carried.

13 MR. TWITCHELL: That was it.

14 MR. SAM: We wanted to act on
15 this, but we lost some of our others.

16 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.
17 I'm going to join Eastern.

18 MR. MATHEWS: The next person
19 would be Geoff. I did want to share with
20 Geoff that during the in season we try to get
21 data across the whole drainage as that season
22 progresses. There's no one here from the
23 coordinated fish -- Benedict is here, yes.
24 And Geoff has been very helpful in collecting
25 data from the Koyukuk-Nowitna area to provide
to those teleconferences, and I wanted Geoff
and the record to reflect that, because that
duty generally falls on me.

The managers all of a sudden
call me up all the time and say, can you find
out what what's going in all the villages on
the Yukon River? And I go, yeah, I can find
out in 48 villages and it might take me
awhile. So Geoff has really helped, and I
wanted that reflected, and he's going to
share some of his background. He's the
subsistence coordinator for the
Koyukuk-Nowitna Refuge, and he'll explain
further on that, but the council needs to
know key people like that in each of the
units not only help you, they help the
managers and others.

MR. SAM: Now, I don't know if

1 anybody can answer it, but we had everything
2 in place recently, a year or two ago. Why
3 all the big change in all the people? We had
4 everything in place, we had law enforcement
5 in place, we had everything in place.

6 MR. MATHEWS: The change is
7 here and the plus that happened there is the
8 coordinator for the three refuges in the
9 Interior moved up to become refuge manager,
10 which is a great step that he's going to
11 carry that knowledge of working with Eastern
12 Interior and you guys. That's Greg
13 McClellan. So that's one change.

14 The other changes I will not
15 touch because there's other reasons for
16 those, but sometimes changes are good because
17 Greg is on the pathway to be an actual
18 manager after learning, with your diligence
19 and patience, what subsistence means. So
20 that again is another plus.

21 The other changes, well, maybe
22 Geoff can address on the refuge.

23 MR. SAM: It's up to him.
24 Might not be a benefit to him either.

25 MR. BEYERSDORF: My name is
26 Geoff Byersdorf. I'm with the Fish and
27 Wildlife Service based out of Galena. Thank
28 you for the introduction, Vince.

29 I'm not sure exactly -- I
30 guess I would ask for a little direction as
31 far as what you're looking for. I can talk a
32 little bit about the changes. Gene Williams
33 left. I think that was for some personal
34 family reasons. Greg McClellan has since
35 moved in and he has brought a substantial
36 amount of knowledge, I feel, to our refuge in
37 regard to subsistence, and he is my direct
38 supervisor there. He's who I'm learning a
39 lot of the issues and how to address some of
40 them from.

41 Joanna Roberts took a position
42 with the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.
43 She's working as a park ranger up there. I
44 think a lot of these are just personal
45 decisions on their behalf.

46 I -- to get to some of the
47 moose issues, I guess, I handed out one of

1 the tables and there's a graph back there. I
2 just gave you some very brief information
3 during the session beforehand. I would look
4 to see if you guys have any questions in
5 regards to those numbers, and I guess Glen
6 from the State Alaska Department of Fish and
7 Game biologist has stressed the importance of
8 trying to get some really good numbers.
9 We're really concerned as far as our census
10 this year for moose and for wolf.

11 And I think that that's it
12 from me at this point unless -- I don't know
13 whatever questions that you have. This is my
14 first time ever dealing with the regional
15 advisory council, so I'm fairly green.

16 MR. SAM: First time for all
17 of us. As you stated, Randy Rogers did
18 present us with some numbers from the state
19 side, which we have been utilizing in the
20 past, and what we utilized our refuge
21 managers for was -- how was that?
22 Instigating law enforcement and what else?
23 And trying to cut down all the permits that
24 they issue out there. So we would like you
25 to work in that direction.

1 We strongly stress law
2 enforcement, and we've had that with the
3 coordination between the state and federal
4 because of that Koyukuk River moose
5 management. But we still get some mixed
6 feelings, and I feel that we weren't
7 conservative enough even at the Koyukuk River
8 moose management group approach to this
9 year's hunt. So with that we constituted
10 that they call the request for follow-up
11 meeting with that group this December
12 sometime.

13 And I just want you to know
14 that Randy Rogers and Glen Stout played a
15 major part in these issues because it is -- I
16 guess that was a more or less funded through
17 the state because Jack and I sit as nonvoting
18 members, but we still carry a lot of votes
19 because Benedict Jones and Mickey Stickman of
20 Nulato also sit as voting members. So you
21 have four of our subsistence council taking
22 part in this.

23 I would then urge you to work
24 with both Orville and Glen because we had a

1 very good coalition down there that more or
2 less bounced around -- bounced off of. Going
3 to get law enforcement involved in these
4 issues. Thank you for that.

5 Do you have anything else?

6 MR. BYERSDORF: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman and members of the council. I
8 guess I would state that one thing that Greg
9 does bring to our refuge is that he does have
10 law enforcement experience. In the short
11 time -- I just came on board with the refuge
12 this last June. In the time I have been
13 there I have seen him put a major emphasis on
14 law enforcement throughout the refuge, and
15 there has been what I would consider very
16 good coordination and cooperation with the
17 state biologists and with Fish and Wildlife
18 protection.

19 Greg made a pretty heavy
20 presence known, and he knows a lot of people
21 in the Fairbanks office. There was several
22 visits by them out there also. There are
23 some issues of concern that came about this
24 season out on the Nowitna Refuge, and I think
25 that we -- we've already met and started
talking about some ideas for next year to
make sure that we have more of a presence out
there.

I think one of the things that
we've seen which is an issue of concern,
which I'm sure the council is aware of, is a
movement from the Koyukon drainage over into
the Nowitna drainage and U-P (ph) drainage,
and that is one thing we've got some
preliminary information from and we have seen
an increase in hunters using those drainages.
And that's another reason why we really want
to get a good handle on the Nowitna this year
as far as conducting a moose census down
there.

And the -- I guess the last --
couple other things I would mention is that
Greg is also in charge -- his role as the
deputy refuge manager, he's in charge of the
special uses permits for our refuge, and he
is aware of your concerns in that area, and I
have numbers. If you're interested, I
brought them with me to pass along as far as
up to this point what we have for numbers as

1 far as permittees and the client use and the
2 number of animals that have been taken out.

3 And I don't have the 2001 data
4 yet. We haven't gotten that in from the
5 permittees yet, but we will have those ready
6 for you. If you want those numbers now, I
7 can get them from you.

8 MR. SAM: Do you want them
9 now?

10 Can we have them at our
11 December meeting, the 2001 numbers?

12 MR. BYERSDORF: Yeah. I don't
13 know. It will depend. I'll talk to Greg and
14 we'll see if we get them back from the
15 permittees by that time. I was assuming
16 you're having a meeting in February or March.

17 MR. SAM: We have a full
18 board -- full council meeting in March, first
19 part of March, and we haven't set a date. In
20 that period this whole council will meet
21 again, because what we're looking at is
22 another meeting, a follow-up meeting, from
23 this year of the Koyukuk River moose
24 management group, and that's set now for
25 December. We don't have the dates yet.

Could you try to get those
numbers in in cooperation with Greg?

MR. BYERSDORF: I can try to
do that, yes.

MR. SAM: Thank you. Anything
else for Geoff?

MR. REAKOFF: No.

MR. SAM: Thanks for that
update. I know we've worked with Greg so
he's not new to us.

MR. BYERSDORF: Thank you.

MR. SAM: We have Orville
Huntington. Do you have a presentation for
us?

MR. HUNTINGTON: Just a little

1 bit on the white-front outreach. But
2 actually I did it at that other meeting.

3 MR. SAM: Okay.

4 MR. HUNTINGTON: We're still
5 working on it, so maybe the next meeting I
6 will have something.

7 MR. SAM: I think so because
8 everywhere you travel with Mike Sweeney --

9 MR. HUNTINGTON: Mike
10 Swindler, yeah.

11 MR. SAM: These two people --
12 all the villages up and down the Koyukuk and
13 everywhere they went we called a special
14 meeting to listen to their concerns, and they
15 were very well attended, so our people are
16 aware of this problem, and they at that time
17 were willing to cut down their harvest, and
18 this year I don't think they even saw that.

19 MR. HUNTINGTON: Actually, we
20 did -- we saw what birds were there. So
21 there were less hunters, I think a 25 percent
22 reduction in hunters, but actually the
23 harvest increased because those hunters that
24 went out were some of the better hunters and
25 because of the potlatches that came up, and I
told them at the outreach meeting because the
harvest went up and it looked like we took
more birds and it would have been even more
if we didn't do what we did with our
outreach. We should have all of this
documented, but we're still working on it.

MR. SAM: Again, I would like
to thank you for flying to every one of our
villages and making people aware of this
problem. Scared a lot of elders. But we
listen to elders too. They automatically
asked us to cut down our harvest voluntarily.
Benedict.

MR. JONES: I talked with Mike
Swindler about wildlife issue, and the
problem -- it's not the problem in Alaska
that's overharvesting the waterfowl. It's

1 from Canada to the eastern Lower 48 because
2 right now they're targeting the Canadian and
3 white-front geese that's migrating south
4 right now, and they've got open season in
5 that period, and that's where they're
6 harvesting all the young geese that was born
7 this year, and there's just a slaughter
8 coming down there. And Mike Swindler
9 requests that they cut down on their harvest
10 as sports hunters down there. They
11 overharvest more than Alaska.

12 MR. SAM: To shed some light
13 on this issue, when Orville was holding his
14 meetings up there, we told them, even our
15 geese like us. We like to try to be fair.
16 Birds that come through the Eastern Interior
17 and they get slaughtered, they go through our
18 country, they get slaughtered, and by the
19 time they get to Northwest there's very few
20 left. Just something like that. Even going
21 back out, our recruitment, we're the first
22 one out that we do. We did address this
23 issue and introduced it to the migratory bird
24 committee, right?

25 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. We
brought that to them and actually, they're
kind of disappointed. They felt like you
guys were getting in on their jurisdiction.
So they're a little bit offended by it. But
actually, when we brought out traditional
knowledge that we have some -- I have in my
packet here. I don't have Power Point to
give it. But when we showed them that and
showed Uncle Steven and Uncle Sidney talking
about it, they kind of changed their attitude
a little bit.

We have, I think, three
supporting it now. Actually, the statewide
council is the one I'm talking about.
They're the ones supporting it. They're not
going to make any recommendations because
they're not there yet. Their own process is
so far behind. It will be a couple years
before they're ready to do anything.

MR. SAM: Anything else for
Orville?

1 MR. HUNTINGTON: I think
2 they're going to find some problems out --
3 with moose hunting. I couldn't get away from
4 it this fall, the Koyukuk moose hunting.
5 They don't go on corporation lands. They
6 follow our land-use policy which is no
7 hunting on corporation lands. But I can't
8 speak for Jack's area. That's too far up
9 river for us, so I don't know what goes on up
10 there. I imagine it's a bigger problem up
11 that way.

12 Where we're at, it was working
13 up to that point -- but actually, I think the
14 biggest problem we had was the airplane that
15 was flying around up there illegally. We
16 have documented evidence that they were
17 spotting and documented in camp that they
18 were guiding from camp with that pilot, and
19 that's the tribal council's business. That's
20 not my business. I was out there monitoring
21 hunting. They were the only problem that was
22 there, I guess.

23 MR. SAM: Anything else?
24 Jack?

25 MR. REAKOFF: Was that on
refuge land?

1 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, inside
2 the Koyukuk National Refuge. That's the only
3 reason I went, so they would have a refuge
4 person present, but I told them I wasn't
5 going to take part in anything else. I just
6 documented. Six moose came into town out
7 of -- I don't know how many got shot, but we
8 know only six came into town.

9 There was a big problem that
10 older people weren't getting moose and they
11 wanted to know why. These guys were coming
12 in and that plane was landing right in Moose
13 Lake. In fact, the day of the bombing when
14 you couldn't get out of town, that plane was
15 flying around up there and they were down the
16 Koyukuk and they called me. I said, call the
17 troopers. And the troopers wouldn't help
18 them. But it gets pretty bad when they start
19 calling somebody that's just trying to help.

20 MR. SAM: Any further

1 questions for Orville? Thank you for your
insight.

2 Any -- how many other agencies
do we have? I know we have one. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. SCHAFF: In addition to
the GASH village issues that he was talking
about earlier, I would like to announce we do
5 have a new deputy manager at Innoko National
Wildlife Refuge, Sondra Sikanik (ph). She
6 moved up in April, and she'll be taking care
of our permits, which is a great relief for
7 me. So we do have another person to deal
with our permits.

8 We had a problem this last
year during our moose law enforcement season
9 in that pilot who was the other law
enforcement officer at Innoko had a heart
10 attack in August. Although he survived it,
he's unable to fly. Therefore, that really
11 restricted us. He's the only pilot we had at
the station. So that restricted our ability
12 to get out and do law enforcement.

Luckily I was able to work
13 with the agents out of Fairbanks and they
graciously came out to Innoko, two to four of
14 them, and spent more than ten days out in the
refuge gathered around, which really helped
15 us out, because, like I said, we didn't have
a pilot to get out there.

16 My gut feeling, partly because
the terrorist bombing on the 11th, the take
17 overall seemed to be down a little bit. That
was my gut reaction. We haven't gotten any
18 numbers back yet from the sport hunters.

We have a couple other
19 projects going on. All the talk this meeting
has revolved around fish, and I wanted you to
20 note that we have been working with both nets
and commercial fisheries. We have two towers
21 on the refuge, one with nets and commercial
fisheries and one with sport fish, and the
22 fisheries office in Fairbanks to monitor the
salmon in the Innoko River. We've also had
23 some pike and whitefish work that we've been
conducting in-house.

24 We've also -- we're in the
process of conducting a new waterfowl survey.
25 We've been conducting goose surveys over the
last few years. We're in the process of

1 designing and implementing a new waterfowl
2 survey which will include not just geese, but
3 also geese, ducks, and we'll be doing it
4 periodically throughout the year, so we
5 should have a lot better information on all
6 waterfowl, including the Interior
7 white-front.

8 We're in the process of ending
9 a willow mapping project which relates back
10 to the moose habitat study. That should be
11 conducted and written up sometime this
12 winter.

13 The other project that we
14 worked on this last year were river mapping,
15 also looking forward to potential salmon
16 habitat on the Innoko. Even though the
17 Innoko is not one of the main salmon areas in
18 the Yukon, it is used and we're trying to
19 figure out what's happening within that
20 system.

21 We'll be doing our moose
22 survey in March of this year and we're also
23 looking at incorporating a fur-bearer survey
24 during that same March time frame and doing a
25 lot of ground proofing.

26 So in a nut shell that's
27 generally what's going on on the Innoko
28 Refuge. Is there any questions?

29 MR. REAKOFF: Yes. I was
30 wondering if, when you had your enforcement,
31 did you have any wanton waste cases out on
32 the Innoko?

33 MR. SCHAFF: We didn't have
34 wanton waste. The agents wrote up, I
35 believe, two cases. They had some problems
36 during that time frame when the terrorist
37 bombing were going on. Of course, everyone
38 was grounded. And there was concerns by some
39 of the hunters who were out there expressing
40 the need to get back to -- or get their meat
41 back to town so it could be properly taken
42 care of.

43 I don't -- like I said, the
44 hunters themselves were expressing this
45 concern for the meat, so they didn't write
46 them because there was really nothing they
47 could do. They had processed it as best they
48 could in the field. There was some other

1 cases written.

2 MR. REAKOFF: Failure to
3 salvage or just --

4 MR. SCHAFF: I believe one of
5 them was questions on size, undersize out in
6 that area for the sport hunters. The other
7 one was -- I'm not sure if it was -- I
8 believe it was salvage.

9 And again, I'm not sure if
10 this year with everything happening on the
11 bombing right there in the middle of the
12 season, I guess I'm giving some of the
13 hunters a benefit of the doubt that they were
14 going to take better care of the meat, but
15 none of the planes, air-taxis, or guide
16 services could adequately fly to retrieve
17 some of it. I guess I'm giving them the
18 benefit of the doubt during that time frame.

19 MR. COLLINS: Another
20 question. Bill, is there going to be any
21 wolf survey? You're doing moose counts. Are
22 you doing anything in the area of the wolf?

23 MR. SCHAFF: Hopefully when
24 we're doing the fur-bearing survey we will be
25 able to get a handle on the moose. The other
26 thing we do miss -- Paul Liedberg, the pilot
27 that had the heart attack, he was flying the
28 Innoko Refuge almost daily for years and he
29 had a really good handle on where the
30 different packs were and the different sizes,
31 so even without a specific survey we had a
32 good handle on the wolf populations. We're
33 missing that during this time frame.
34 Hopefully Paul will be back and flying for us
35 again next spring, but right now we're in a
limbo where we don't have a pilot.

36 MR. COLLINS: Maybe he can be
37 an observer if you get a plane to go out.

38 MR. SCHAFF: Yeah, if we can
39 get a pilot. We've been borrowing pilots
40 from Galena, which I'd like to publicly thank
41 them for allowing their pilot and the
42 Yukon-Delta.

1 MR. SAM: Where were you based
2 again?

3 MR. SCHAFF: McGrath. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. SAM: Do you have anything
6 to report?

7 MR. SCHULZ: I'm Bob Schulz,
8 the refuge manager from Kanuti National
9 Wildlife Refuge. I passed out a report.
10 Since last February when Lisa visited with
11 you we've conducted a moose browse study
12 where we've collected some moose browse and
13 we're having that analyzed. It hasn't come
14 back yet. But we're looking at the
15 nutritional contents and the amount of
16 chemicals that may be building up in there,
17 and they're inhibitors so the moose will stop
18 browsing.

19 We ran a moose distribution
20 survey in March, and then this fall we worked
21 with Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, and
22 Evansville on a moose body condition. The
23 people in Allakaket were concerned about the
24 moose not having enough body fat on them, so
25 we made up some kits and we distributed them
26 prior to hunting season, and we're waiting
27 for these kits to come back in from hunters
28 that were successful in collecting moose
29 there to give us some information on the
30 condition of their moose there.

31 Last March we conducted an
32 aerial wolf survey. On the north half of the
33 refuge we had excellent snow conditions and
34 we feel we got a good count up there, but
35 down on the south end of refuge there the
36 darned wind blew us out. We feel that, based
37 on what we've seen out there, we have about
38 50 to 53 wolves on the refuge, and that's
39 about consistent with what people have been
40 saying for the last couple surveys that we've
41 had there. Hopefully, if we get good snow
42 conditions this year, we will be able to get
43 another one done there.

44 In addition to our annual
45 float down the Kanuti River for goose route
46 surveys, we did an aerial survey this year,
47 and that's given us a lot more information on

1 our goose production on the refuge, and
2 that's a survey that we look at we're going
3 to continue on and build on in following
4 years there.

5 We're teaming up with Orville
6 and the rest of the group, and right now
7 we're strategizing on how we can go out and
8 develop an outreach program for the
9 white-fronted geese, how can we tackle this
10 program here, and we're supporting their
11 effort and working with them there on that.

12 The last week of September we
13 conducted a beaver cache survey. We're
14 trying to get a handle on the beavers out
15 there on the refuge, get a better estimate on
16 what we have out there. We conducted a small
17 mammal trappings effort this year to look at
18 basically the main food base for our fur
19 bearers out there, but we're just getting our
20 critters looked at yet. Yellow-cheeked voles
21 are the main ones out there that we're
22 looking at.

23 If you have any questions --
24 yes.

25 MR. SAM: Yeah. You notice
26 that we have a preliminary count on moose
27 harvested at our other refuges. Have you
28 done that or had any data on moose harvest or
29 hunters within --

30 MR. SCHULZ: We have two
31 air-taxi operators that are allowed on or
32 permitted on the refuge, and we've got the
33 one report back. He took four groups out
34 this year. One of them was strictly a
35 backpacking group. The other three groups
36 harvested two moose. The other air-taxi
37 operator, to my knowledge, only took one
38 group out onto the refuge and they took two
39 moose and one black bear off of the eastern
40 portion of the refuge.

41 MR. SAM: And these permits
42 are issued by you?

43 MR. SCHULZ: Yes. They're
44 air-taxi operators. If you're familiar with
45 the Kanuti control use area, so they can only
46 operate basically on the eastern third of the

1 refuge. The western two-thirds or more of
2 the refuge is actually closed to the use of
3 aircraft in accessing that for any moose
4 hunting purposes there. Two of the moose --
5 or three of the moose that they took off the
6 refuge were down near the Kanuti cabin down
7 at Kanuti Lake, and the other one was taken
8 farther upstream on the Kanuti River.

9 MR. SAM: Anything further?

10 MR. REAKOFF: I wanted to
11 state that the moose that we took this year
12 were real thin also up in our area for the
13 size of the moose, and the time of year they
14 should have been fatter, and we felt that
15 that was probably due to the overbrowsing by
16 the hares because we're at the peak of the
17 hare population.

18 MR. SCHULZ: Could be.

19 MR. REAKOFF: I'm concerned
20 about harvest in that whole area off from the
21 Dalton Highway corridor area all the way over
22 to the south slope of the Brooks Range,
23 including the Kanuti adjacent areas on the
24 levels of harvest that's going on and the
25 lack of calf production that I've been seeing
26 in moose, and I would like to see
27 calculations of harvests, because under the
28 moose hunter working group plan that we had
29 with the Koyukuk River working group, the
30 agreement was that three to five percent
31 harvest in that type of population.

32 Last spring I asked for that
33 and Lisa provided me and it was -- she
34 calculated a 5.6 in that Kanuti area, so I
35 would like to see the federal agencies begin
36 to calculate those harvest levels like the
37 Dalton Highway corridor and the Kanuti area.
38 I feel we're getting right -- we're probably
39 harvesting beyond the sustained yield for the
40 kind of calf production we're having.

41 MR. SCHULZ: Let me get with
42 Lisa to see where she got those numbers from
43 and see if we can't get them for -- redevelop
44 them for 2001.

45 I did work the Dalton Highway

1 the first three days of the season and I
2 passed out maps on ownership. We've been
3 having problems or concerns with boaters
4 coming down the south fork, boaters coming in
5 on Bonanza Creek. I was passing out maps to
6 hunting parties at the road access points
7 there trying to explain to them where the
8 Kanuti control use area was and also where
9 the Native corporation lands were. I had
10 pretty good reception on -- a lot of the
11 hunters thanked me for taking the time to
12 explain a little bit about moose hunting and
13 that.

14 I talked to them about the use
15 of bears. Had the opportunity to take a
16 black bear and wanted one, I was trying to
17 encourage them to take one and haul it out of
18 there, and I think that in the future years
19 I'm going to still do that. I stopped and
20 talked with Kurt Biddenfell, and he was kind
21 of amazed at the lack of the number of
22 hunters up there first four days there.

23 MR. REAKOFF: That was early.
24 Once the season got rolling, the air-taxis
25 really started moving.

26 MR. SAM: When the hunting
27 season gets going, we can't -- everybody
28 forgets about Alakaket. All the airlines,
29 all the air-taxis just more or less exclude
30 Alakaket, and yet they're hauling so many
31 hunters and meat that we can barely get a
32 flight out of there other than chartering.

33 MR. SCHULZ: I'm working on
34 that case on the -- what was it? The 17th
35 that a lone floater came into Alakaket with a
36 set of horns and flew out, and I've talked to
37 both the state and the federal agents and
38 we're following up on that. We're working
39 with the commercial operator that flew the
40 horns out and flew the individual out, and
41 hopefully we can resolve that issue of that
42 meat was passed off or if it was left out
43 there.

44 MR. SAM: Jack, on that
45 5.6 percent, was that -- on the Kanuti
46 Wildlife Refuge, was that including local

1 hunters and all?

2 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah. That was
3 including local hunters and then other
4 hunters who hunted on the refuge outside of
5 the no-fly zone.

6 MR. SAM: Because I distinctly
7 remember that --

8 MR. SCHULZ: I'm not sure how
9 Lisa came up with those figures, but I'll
10 talk it over with her.

11 MR. SAM: Where is she?

12 MR. SCHULZ: She's up in
13 Fairbanks holding down the fort there. We're
14 pretty short-staffed. Barry Whitehill, the
15 assistant refuge manager that's been there
16 for ten years, transferred over to Yukon
17 Flats, and then Eleanor Patterson, our admin
18 officer, the only essential person on our
19 staff, she retired.

20 MR. SAM: I think we saw
21 Barry's move before it happened. He lost his
22 wife and he has a personal -- I mean, it
23 hurt. In fact, we did ask him to take some
24 time off personally.

25 MR. SCHULZ: He's just down
the hall. I still go down and bug him about
stuff. He didn't leave us entirely. We
still use him as knowledge up there.

MR. SAM: Thank you. Any
other agencies?

MR. MATHEWS: I don't think
so, Mr. Chairman.

MR. SAM: I want to clarify
this with David. So the funding came in late
on that house-to-house count survey?

MR. ANDERSEN: Yes. We were
trying to get, and we did get, federal
funding for the big game projects. Through
some problem that I don't completely know the

1 details on, we didn't get the funding till
2 was well into May, and we're usually out of
the field and done by then.

3 But a couple things played
into it, Ron. The years that we did do the
4 survey in the Koyukuk, the numbers from year
to year had changed very little. We felt we
5 had a really good handle on what the harvest
was in there, so that played into our
decision to --

6
MR. SAM: That's what --
7 that's what I was leading up to. So we can
utilize the local harvest year-to-year data
8 using those -- your figures?

9 MR. ANDERSEN: I think that's
what -- that would be good. In the absence
10 of having information for this year, I would
recommend you maybe take an average. The
11 years that we did it, it didn't vary -- on
the Koyukuk River, ten animals difference.
12 It varied from 126 to 136 animals over the
years that we did do the study. So it was
13 very constant, and I think, at least for
moose, you could make an assumption that
14 that's about what the level of harvest was.

There's very few areas in the
15 state that we have the luxury of going into
the same communities year after year after
16 year. The Koyukuk was unusual in that
respect.

17
MR. SAM: We can still use
18 those figures and you can depend on those
figures for our proposals. Thank you.

19
MR. REAKOFF: Why is it
20 unclear whether those funds carry over?
That's not stipulated in the grant?

21
MR. ANDERSEN: Actually,
22 afterwards, after I gave that presentation
after lunch, I talked with George and Pete,
23 and they said it was that money that we got
was funded for that one year for that one
24 project. We have to resubmit to get the
funding again, and we can do that.

25
MR. SAM: Anything else for

1 Dave?

2 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman,
3 the only place where the data might be
4 significant is if there was a drop-off this
5 year, because that might signal if there's
6 lower numbers, if it's lower this year. I
7 don't know if I believe that or not, but some
8 people were saying hunting was poorer this
9 year.

10 MR. ANDERSEN: We have heard
11 that, and Geoff Beyersdorf, of course, said
12 that there was maybe some difference in
13 people's hunting patterns.

14 MR. SAM: From what we heard
15 from Randy today, we had 90 moose less than
16 last year.

17 MR. ANDERSEN: Yeah. Some of
18 that would have been local hunters coming
19 through the check station. A lot of that is
20 attributed to nonlocal hunters coming up
21 there.

22 The other thing to remember is
23 we're just coming out of a fall season and
24 there is a winter hunt. If people didn't
25 successfully get their moose in the fall,
26 they have another chance.

27 MR. SAM: December and March.

28 MR. ANDERSEN: About 30
29 percent of the annual harvest comes out of
30 that winter and spring harvest.

31 MR. SAM: Yeah, before I get
32 to Ida. The reason Jack and I requested
33 another meeting from the Kuskokwim moose
34 management team is that all indications so
35 far and all communications so far with people
36 is that that moose harvest is low all over,
37 and that's why we requested that meeting.

38 Ida.

39 MS. HILDEBRAND: I do have two
40 points on this same topic. There was a
41 special action that has come forward and we
42 haven't acted on requesting the moose hunt in

1 the Kaltag area. Their problem was -- I
2 don't know if it was weather or what, but in
3 Nulato the people also complained that during
4 the season they ran out of gas and had to
5 wait for the barge to come in, so that might
6 explain why some of the people weren't out
7 hunting, and it's -- but then there's also
8 the factor of all airports were closed down
9 for a week.

6 MR. SAM: Yes, I think so.
7 Leading up to moose season I was out on a
8 boat -- I had some time off and I went about
9 50, 60 miles up river. All that time before
10 the moose season there was tracks all over
11 the place, but then moose season came around
12 and the moose weren't there.

Vince.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Yes,
11 Mr. Chairman, I wanted to follow up with
12 Ida's thing. We were all geared up to
13 present you the special action request from
14 William Solomon, Junior, and when I consulted
15 with Pete DeMatteo, your biologist who covers
16 all three of these regions, that special
17 action request has been withdrawn. So that's
18 why we're not bringing it before you. We're
19 not hiding it or anything, but it was
20 withdrawn. We were all set up to get your
21 comments on that, but it's been withdrawn.

17 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
18 in my last comment on the moose, my father
19 has extensive knowledge of moose hunting, and
20 he stated that the high water also impacts
21 whether the moose come after the water or
22 not, and if they have water closer to the
23 mountains and hills, they won't come out.

21 MR. JONES: The early part of
22 the season is when the subsistence August
23 season was open. It was really bad weather
24 during those days. There was continuously
25 raining for two weeks' period. So most
26 subsistence hunters didn't go out in this
27 period.

25 MR. SAM: That's good to know
because you're looking at ways especially if

1 you go way out of the country.

2 MR. MATHEWS: Geoff may have
3 something.

4 MR. BYERSDORF: In regards to
5 your comments and also to Ida's, my
6 understanding is also that the Nulato tribal
7 council submitted a proposal and that was
8 also withdrawn, and I guess in regards to the
9 Kaltag, Nulato, and also in the Galena area
10 we did hear a lot of comments as far as
11 trying to get an extension or an additional
12 five days, and one of the things that's
13 happened is in the last few days people were
14 able to get moose.

15 I contacted users throughout
16 those areas, and a lot of them were able
17 to -- the people that did get moose shared it
18 with other members in the communities, and
19 almost every one -- and in speaking with Pete
20 DeMatteo this morning, it seems most the
21 subsistence needs for moose this year were
22 met.

23 MR. SAM: Sampson.

24 MR. HENRY: When I went by
25 Ruby they were saying that they got 15 moose
26 back on the roads. That's off the river.
27 And they got four on the river. And some of
28 those guys said probably because it rained so
29 much they had enough water and they didn't
30 come out. But I don't know.

31 MR. SAM: Where are we now?

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay,
33 Mr. Chairman, that brings us back to you had
34 potential proposals on the federal side and
35 one on the state side, and that's under
36 Tab H-2, I think it is, pages 10 through
37 whatever -- through 13. Now, you don't have
38 to do anything with these. You requested
39 last winter that I draft up a proposal to
40 present to the council here if they wanted to
41 on establishing a funerary mortuary potlatch
42 regulation similar to the State of Alaska for
43 Units 21 and 24. So that language is before
44 you. You can submit it as individuals, but

1 you requested to see if the council wanted
2 to. That's one proposal.

3 Following that is a proposal
4 during our discussions on the federal
5 proposal to remove the half-mile restriction
6 on the Inokko River in 21(D). It became
7 apparent when you were addressing that on the
8 federal side that it would have little effect
9 unless it was done on the state side. I
10 believe you charged staff then to draft a
11 proposal to submit to the Board of Game, and
12 it seemed that the area biologist at that
13 time was sympathetic to removing that
14 restriction. So we drafted up a proposal
15 here that, if you wanted to go forward from
16 the Western Interior, we would submit it to
17 the Board of Game by the December 7th due
18 date.

19 So you have two proposals to
20 decide if you want to move them forward. The
21 one is the funerary mortuary one --

22 MR. SAM: This would be to?

23 MR. MATHEWS: To the federal
24 board. You wanted it because you were
25 concerned that there needs to be parallel
26 lines and regulations with the federal
27 government, and because of the good working
28 relationship with the federal staff, you
29 wanted -- and the refuges and in the
30 villages, that you wanted them to have the
31 same options as the state.

32 MR. SAM: I think the concern
33 was that if the state ever deleted that, you
34 would have this on the federal side.

35 MR. MATHEWS: Correct. Be an
36 insurance policy that would apply to federal
37 lands.

38 MR. SAM: Federal lands. As
39 long as that is understood, so go ahead and
40 submit that.

41 MR. MATHEWS: Does the council
42 want to submit that as a council? You can
43 always -- I always remember Ray saying, we'll
44 just put it in there and if we don't like it

1 when it comes back, we'll just vote it down.
2 So do you want that one to go forward, then,
3 about the funerary?

4 Okay. The record will reflect
5 that they want that one to go to the Federal
6 Subsistence Board.

7 The other one, I hope I
8 captured the gist of it, but basically you
9 had a proposal to lift that half-mile
10 restriction, but the amount of federal land
11 and the area it would effect and defining
12 where the federal land is or isn't became the
13 crux, I thought, that I think you want the
14 recommendation to reject the proposal. When
15 you rejected it, you charged staff to draft
16 up a Board of Game proposal to have that
17 half-mile restriction removed, and then if
18 that passed, then you would submit one on the
19 federal side to remove it from there.

20 So do you want the Board of
21 Game proposal dealing with 21(D) half-mile
22 restriction submitted under your name?

23 MR. SAM: Was this introduced
24 by Mickey?

25 MR. JONES: That was
introduced by Mickey.

1 MR. SAM: So do we still want
2 to submit it? I think that, to protect our
3 residents, that you take -- harvest moose in
4 this area, it would protect our residents
5 because it is federal land, isn't it?

6 MR. JONES: Some parts of it,
7 yeah.

8 MR. SAM: So do we then want
9 to stipulate that this is -- this would take
10 effect only on federal lands, then? That's
11 what we were trying to do, because some
12 people do use --

13 MR. REAKOFF: This is going to
14 the state board. This proposal would be sent
15 into the state board to get the state to
16 address this issue. Most of the land is
17 state, right?

1 MR. JONES: Yeah.

2 MR. REAKOFF: So if the state
3 board passes this, then we can -- we have the
similar proposal tabled?

4 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. We could
5 do next cycle, but unless -- Jeff will have
6 to help me on this. Unless we close those
7 federal lands, you could hunt under state
8 regs. You could select to hunt under state
9 regs. If the state removed this -- so if you
10 did do that, the half mile disappears, and
probably we would come back to you with a
proposal to clean up federal regs which are
not going to be in any jeopardy unless for
some reason we close federal lands. Then you
would be subject to that half mile.

11 MR. REAKOFF: So we just want
12 to submit this to the state?

13 MR. JONES: Mr. Chairman, that
14 half-mile restriction area only applies to
the Yukon River.

15 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

16 MR. JONES: You can go off the
17 drainage and you could still harvest moose
right on the drainage area. There's a slough
beyond that half a mile now. It's just the
Yukon River.

18 MR. SAM. Tom.

19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, in
20 addition, it's only the February season. So
the Yukon River in the February season.

21 MR. SAM: Okay. All right.

22 MR. MATHEWS: So go ahead.

23 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah.

24 MR. MATHEWS: Unless there's
25 other proposals by audience or public or
council. I'm not seeing any. There is one
developing. I don't have a copy of it, but

1 you'll have one dealing with the controlled
2 use area on the Koyukuk River, that one area
3 that was dealing that I can't pronounce,
4 D-a-k-i, expanding the control use area up to
5 the north and to the west is going to be
6 submitted in some form or fashion from Jack
7 Wholecheese.

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Jack
9 Wholecheese.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Just so
11 you know, the other one that Tom passed
12 around, it's only informational. It's a
13 statewide proposal. It's from Craig Fleener
14 from Eastern Interior, but it is his
15 individual proposal. You're just given a
16 copy of it. You will get the proposal book
17 and it will have the same thing in it. I
18 don't really want to try to explain this to
19 you because there's no need at this point to
20 do that.

21 MR. SAM: So we can address
22 the expansion of control-use area later,
23 then?

24 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. If that
25 goes -- actually, it was submitted yesterday
26 and I turned it in. You'll get the full
27 analysis at your next meeting, assume that
28 the person doesn't withdraw it or whatever.

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: I wanted to
30 comment, and because of time constraints I
31 didn't comment earlier, on Geoff's report to
32 you. It's a report you requested I think
33 about two years ago in Galena or somewhere
34 around there, and it's relevant to the
35 decisions you're going to be asked to make to
36 comment on the state's activity in McGrath
37 regarding the moose and predators. It's also
38 going to be relevant to when the federal
39 board addresses predator control whether in
40 work session or in federal public meeting and
41 in your concern about moose populations all
42 over the region. So I wanted to save time
43 with this information.

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if

1 there's no other proposals, that moves us up
2 to annual report and that's under Tab H-3.
3 Now, as the coordinator you've got a couple
4 options here. The first page is 1 through 4,
5 is the annual report that you submitted. 1
6 through 5, I'm sorry. The remaining pages, 6
7 through 11, I can summarize for you, and
8 again, we've changed our procedures within
9 the office. I have to ask, did you receive
10 this in the mail? Before I distributed them,
11 so I don't know. I see it says cc: council
12 members. So I'm wondering if you received
13 this in the mail.

14 MR. SAM: I may have.

15 MR. MATHEWS: I suppose in
16 deference to time it might be better for you
17 to look it over and ask if there's any
18 questions on the response to the 2000 annual
19 report. I can try to summarize, but I think
20 it would be better for you to look at it.
21 Some of you had specific interests in there,
22 and it would be easier if you guys zero in on
23 those.

24 MR. REAKOFF: The board --
25 basically, I had requested wound loss
26 analysis for the Dalton Highway corridor, and
27 the board basically said that was within the
28 state's realm and to look elsewhere. We were
29 opened on the board cycle and make quite a
30 few proposals on this bow hunting stuff.
31 They're trying to work through the state
32 process, so that's where I'm going with that
33 wound loss things, but I do feel that if the
34 moose population gets harvested any more and
35 the state doesn't do anything about it, then
36 it would-- I feel that it's within the
37 parameters of the board -- of the federal
38 board to trim the sport season down.

39 I disagree with their position
40 that there's black or white. I feel that
41 there -- and it's in the ANILCA law that they
42 have to maintain healthy populations of game,
43 and to reduce the sport season is within the
44 parameters of the federal board. If the
45 state doesn't address this issue, then I'm
46 going to hold the federal board's feet to the
47 fire on that issue, because that's -- there

1 can't be black or white. There has to be
2 some middle ground of controlling sport
harvest to maintain subsistence priority.

3 So that's what I'm addressing
on this wound loss, if they can address that,
4 see if the state board is going to do that,
and that's my comment on this issue.

5 MR. MATHEWS: The next issue
is basically you wanted a report on the
6 guiding air-taxi boat transporters. Pete
DeMatteo, you're biologist, he's going to
7 mail that to you because of time constraints
today. So that's kind of an informational
8 response.

9 The Lacey Act, you requested
attention to the uses, sport fishing uses, in
the area in the Lacey Act. This late in the
10 day I'm afraid to -- I'm going to
miss- portray it. I'll jump to the chase.
11 The wording in there will tell you what it
does. So I'll stop there, but you are in an
12 area that was very interesting, and I
encourage you to read that response.

13 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
14 regarding the language on the Lacey Act, this
language you also requested in that same
15 meeting and you wanted clarification of
exactly what triggers the Lacey Act, and for
16 once they finally answered your question, and
I think it's well answered.

17 MR. MATHEWS: The next issue
18 is the GASH planning area. I think you've
gotten two reports on that today, on the GASH
19 thing. I think it's basically stay tuned.
There's a scoping process going forward and
20 other actions within the wildlife area and
actions within sport fish. So as your
21 coordinator, your actions in your annual
reports and the actions of one of your
22 council members has triggered a process in
the GASH area.

23 I think Ron knows this very
well. You're going to have to keep,
24 borrowing Jack's words, keep the agency's
feet to the fire on this planning process.
25 So as your coordinator I encourage you to
keep involved and understand the GASH project

1 planning process, even though you don't live
2 in that area, because you directed all the
3 agencies to do that. So your assistance in
prodding it along will be greatly helpful and
appreciated by the state and federal.

4 MR. SAM: I think we will have
5 to because from what Angela told me earlier
6 at a break today, she said they set up a
7 meeting, they called the person that was
8 supposed to be there, came in, he jumped out
and went sport fishing or something, left the
council high and dry, and I think that's what
might have stalled some of the deliberations
on this issue. So --

9 MR. MATHEWS: What the
10 issue -- and I'm not going into details
11 because it's kind of sensitive on the
12 details. That was discussed and that's being
addressed, sensitivity to various user groups
within the area. So that has been noted and
has worked forward and beyond that.

13 So the -- Randy Rogers talked
14 about the wildlife process, Bill Schaff talks
15 about the scoping process that's under this.
16 So as your coordinator I kind of float above
17 this, but all the stars are lining up here,
is what I'm seeing. I'm not sure what the
constellation is, but they're lining up. So
with that, with your continual oversight --
and I'll represent to you, you kept the
Koyukuk River planning process alive.

18 So I'm just saying the other
19 one is doing very well, but that oversight
20 that you did on the Koyukuk and revived it in
21 Galena -- and Pete helped write the
22 resolution on that -- started that process
again. We're not anywhere near that on the
GASH, but I encourage you to do that same
action of constantly asking, where is that at
and how is it going.

23 MR. SAM: I would have to give
24 Jack and myself credit on that because we had
25 teleconferences. We more or less forced that
committee. We forced this on our villages.
We drug them to Fairbanks. Where they wanted
to be at Fairbanks, we gave them the option
of sitting there or going home. They sat

1 there and that committee was formed.

2 MR. MATHEWS: So that would be
3 the GASH.

4 MR. SAM: That's how to do it
5 down there. I would have to ask to keep
6 focus and take initiative and make the
7 agencies sit down. The reason we had such a
8 hard time getting that going was that we had
9 commercial guides involved with our
10 management group. But we did get it off and
11 running. So it can be done with others.
12 It's just a matter of getting people to sit
13 down and take notice. All the agencies
14 involved.

15 MS. HILDEBRAND: I might note
16 for your benefit, and to remind the council,
17 that this time you do have a representative
18 of the Innoka Refuge and you haven't had one
19 at your meeting for a very long time, and
20 that is in itself an improvement that he's
21 here to listen to your comments and concerns.

22 MR. MATHEWS: The next one is
23 dealing with predator studies. Ida touched
24 upon it. The board is going to have a
25 special work session to deal with predator
26 control. Now, I'm not misleading you. It
27 says earlier that predator control does
28 not -- it's the responsibility of the land
29 management agencies and it's not -- I don't
30 know. I just was exposed to this language.
31 But basically, it's not part of the federal
32 subsistence program, according to this, but
33 the board will be having a special session to
34 allow them to discuss in more detail about
35 that.

36 You had requested a
37 predator -- the role of predators with moose
38 populations in Unit 21(D) and 24, and this is
39 the response to it. And if I miss something,
40 I think Pete can fill in on this. These
41 annual report responses are a cooperative,
42 collaborative effort, and many staff are
43 involved in writing, and that's why I was
44 asking Pete on this because he had worked on
45 this quite a bit.

 That leads us into -- and

1 every meeting this happens. This leads us
2 into the 2001, and looking at my watch --
3 2001 annual report -- there's a couple
4 options here. You can start telling me
5 annual report topics if you know of some, or
6 we could say you could submit the topics to
7 me and I would write them up and then you
8 would get the draft at your next meeting.

9 Another option is -- and I
10 hesitate you doing it, but it is an option,
11 is that you don't do a 2001 annual report.
12 And so those are the options before you. One
13 is start firing off annual report topics, but
14 you're probably more tired than I am; and the
15 other thing would be is when you get back
16 home is to say -- I think, Jack, you may have
17 an annual report topic; Angela, you might
18 have something. These are topics that are a
19 little bit beyond proposals, a little bit
20 more broader than -- they cover a lot of
21 topics. You know what's in front of you.
22 And that would be another option. Or you say
23 we defer doing a 2001 report and we'll catch
24 up in 2002.

25 MR. SAM: Jack.

MR. REAKOFF: I wouldn't feel
comfortable not doing a 2001 report because
that's a mandate of our council, to make that
report, and I have issues, or at least one
issue, and that's the monitoring of these
moose populations as far as harvest versus
sustained yield in the northern portion of
game management Unit 24, and I think that
probably the other council members may have
issues that are broad.

What I would like to see is
the federal agencies calculate those harvests
to see if we're staying within these
sustained parameters, and I would -- that's
my main issue.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I
think we shouldn't miss the opportunity to
note the beginning of the GASH planning
process, too, and say that we support that
and hope that that moves forward this year,
and the other one would be the report we've
had about the declining moose numbers in

1 19(D) where there is more -- or (A) and (B)
2 where there is more federal land and so on,
3 because the problem we've seen on state lands
4 in 19(D) is spreading through the area; and
5 in fact, there was some mention that it may
6 be even up on Koyukuk those high numbers may
7 be falling now, that all of the agencies
8 should be monitoring that closely when they
9 do their counts this year, because we may
10 have a problem developing in the Interior.

11 And it relates to whether
12 there will be predator control then if they
13 do fall. So I guess just the noting of that
14 and our concern that those population numbers
15 are declining and calf survival is declining
16 should be noted. Maybe ask that the agencies
17 give us good reports this next year on what's
18 happening to game populations on their
19 respective lands.

20 MR. SAM: So how many do you
21 have right now?

22 MR. MATHEWS: Three.

23 MR. SAM: At this time I would
24 ask that you call in more. I'm sure --

25 MR. MATHEWS: Give me a call
and then I'll be getting back to each of
those that brought some up for more
background on it, but yes.

MR. SAM: I think we have
something good going here, and we do get good
responses, whether we like them or not.

MR. MATHEWS: Pete is prodding
me, which is great. You can also, when I
write this up and it's done, it's a draft, at
the next meeting you can say, Carl can say, I
also want to add on another topic, and you
can do it at your next meeting, because your
final report isn't drafted until your next
meeting. So other topics can come up at your
meeting then, but it's easier if they're
written ahead of time.

That would bring us up to
charter review and approval. Let me explain
that real quickly. You have a charter that

1 in federal that you have to have a charter of
2 what you exist and why you exist. The
3 charter is under one of the tabs, the next
4 tab, H-4, and I'm really going to cut to the
5 chase here and you're going to have to trust
6 me on this.

7 The charter is basically just
8 there to acknowledge who you are and what you
9 do. The parameters that you can do with it
10 is you can change your name, you can change
11 replacement of members, and I think one or
12 two other things. But beyond that, if you
13 don't want to change your name and don't want
14 to do removal of members, further language on
15 it, the rest is not touched upon. Ida will
16 probably correct me on the other things. But
17 they come up in odd years.

18 At this point, same as the
19 annual reports, if you wanted something
20 changed in your charter, where you can, then
21 we would do a full analysis on it and bring
22 it back to the next meeting saying, yep, can
23 do it or nope, and then it goes to the
24 secretary for signature. So Ida may keep me
25 between the sideboards here.

MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
just one caution or note. On the last page
of your charter under compensation, although
you're not being compensated at this time,
there is a request in a very strong letter
from the chairman of the federal board
that -- to the secretary for your
compensation. In the event that you do, this
section would need to be revised to note
councils would not receive compensation.
Not.

MR. SAM: Delete the word
"no"?

MS. HILDEBRAND: Yeah. In the
event that the secretary approved it. If the
secretary doesn't approve it, it's moot.

MR. SAM: So we could take
action on that and forward that as a change,
request change.

MR. MATHEWS: You could do

1 that, Mr. Chair. You've already gotten how
2 many letters now? Three from the secretary
 saying no.

3 MR. SAM: Well, one more
4 wouldn't hurt.

5 MR. MATHEWS: I take the
6 direction that we'll research that it is
7 available for you to change that section. If
8 it is, that you want "no" deleted from --
9 that you want compensation and language could
10 be reflected in the charter to that effect.

11 Okay. That's it for charter,
12 and you'll have that back before you at the
13 next meeting.

14 I'm going to roll here, Ron,
15 if that's okay.

16 MR. SAM: Do we have to go
17 through that?

18 MR. MATHEWS: We don't have
19 to. I can just tell you it's under Tab 5 and
20 was mailed to you earlier, and that it's
21 being provided to you with resolutions, so I
22 think --

23 MR. SAM: Yes.

24 MR. MATHEWS: The next item is
25 important, and I don't want you to rush
26 through it, is elections of officers. This
27 is your fall meeting and appointments. So
28 let's stop with -- I don't know how that
29 happened on the agenda -- let's stop with the
30 officers. So you have annual seats for
31 chair, vice chair, and secretary. You can
32 defer to the next meeting or you can take
33 them up now.

34 MR. SAM: When do -- Jack and
35 I raise --

36 MR. MATHEWS: Ron is staying
37 as chair, Ray Collins is vice chair, and Jack
38 is secretary.

39 MR. SAM: When do we expire?
40 After our next meeting?

1 MR. MATHEWS: They don't
2 expire. You're just replaced.

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: The seats
4 that are up in 2001 are Henry Deacon and
5 Michael Stickman, and Sampson Henry.

6 MR. SAM: 2002?

7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ron Sam, Ray
8 Collins, Jack Reakoff.

9 MR. REAKOFF: Does that go
10 through the end of 2002?

11 MS. HILDEBRAND: You're seated
12 until the secretary makes the appointments.

13 MR. SAM: And basically, he's
14 been doing it in March instead of August, and
15 that's why Henry is coming to our March
16 meeting?

17 MR. MATHEWS: I can't answer
18 that.

19 MR. SAM: He could legally
20 come to our meeting.

21 MR. MATHEWS: If he's not
22 replaced, he would be --

23 MR. SAM: I think he just
24 didn't submit because he wanted to retire.

25 MR. REAKOFF: We would
resubmit application in 2002, is when we
would be resubmitting.

MR. MATHEWS: At your next
meeting you need to resubmit. But take Jack,
for example, say he resubmitted, and if he
was reappointed, it would be February of
2003. So if he was re-elected as officer, he
would still be an officer for the upcoming
meeting -- two more meetings he would be an
officer, if that's the question at hand.

MR. SAM: What's the pleasure
of the board?

1 MR. HENRY: So where are we
2 now? Are we going to elect officers? I make
3 a motion that existing officers be elected
4 for another year.

5 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: Second.

6 MR. MORGAN: Question.

7 MR. SAM: I clarified this,
8 too, because I was abrupt when I called for
9 question. I haven't had -- I clarified this
10 with Greg Raziska (ph). He had to really
11 abide by Roberts Rules of Order with running
12 the state board, state board of game. So if
13 someone calls for a question, it's up to the
14 chair to recognize that or totally ignore it
15 as that.

16 What's the feeling of the
17 board? A question has been called for? Any
18 further?

19 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I
20 agree with that on the question. If that's
21 what you're asking about that statement?

22 MR. SAM: Yeah.

23 MR. COLLINS: It's up to you
24 to decide, because if you really want to move
25 it forward, the proper thing is to move the
previous question, and then we have to vote
on that. Really, when somebody moves the
question, it says they're ready to vote and
get on with it, and you still have to decide.

MR. SAM: So the motion was
made to re-elect officers for another year
and seconded. All those in favor of the
motion signify by saying aye. Opposed, same
sign. Motion carried.

I'm not as tired as I thought
I was.

MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman,
for the record and the recorder, the chairman
is Ron Sam, the vice chair is Ray Collins,
the secretary is Jack Reakoff.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,

1 that brings us up to other appointments, and
2 I'm fairly confident you don't have
3 appointments pending for SRCs, Subsistence
4 Resource Commissions for the Park Service,
5 but I think you need to affirm your
6 appointments to coordinate a district
7 committee, which is Benedict Jones and Mickey
8 Stickman.

9 I didn't bring all the records
10 on that, but I can speak highly confident
11 that either Mickey and Benedict or both were
12 at every teleconference that has happened
13 since you formed this committee. So if
14 there's any question on attendance on
15 teleconferences, they have high attendance.

16 As far as attending any
17 directly CFC meetings, top of my head they
18 attended every one. So on that I will stop,
19 but if you want to reaffirm that, then that
20 makes it clear for the record.

21 MR. SAM: I feel that since we
22 appointed them, they took the work load off
23 my shoulders, and I would like to thank them
24 in some way. So at this time the chair would
25 like to entertain a motion reconfirming our
26 appointments of Benedict Jones and Mickey
27 Stickman as our coordinating committee
28 members on the Yukon River.

29 MR. REAKOFF: I make that
30 motion to affirm or reaffirm their position
31 as coordinating committee on the Yukon River,
32 Mickey Stickman and Benedict Jones.

33 MR. COLLINS: Second.

34 MR. SAM: Any further
35 discussion?

36 MS. DEMIENTIEFF: One comment.
37 When Ben and Mickey were appointed and I
38 volunteered to be alternate, I was so glad
39 they never missed a meeting because I never
40 had to go.

41 MR. SAM: Can you affirm the
42 amendment recognizing Angie as alternate?

43 MR. REAKOFF: I recognize that

1 and would like to include Angela Dementieff
2 as the alternate for the coordinating
committee.

3 MR. SAM: Who consented for
second?

4 MR. HENRY: I did.

5 MR. SAM: Thank you. All
6 those in favor of the motion signify by
saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion
7 carried.

8 MR. MATHEWS: Real quick on
9 that, ending that subject so it will be noted
to the full council, Angie participates
regularly on those teleconferences as well as
10 Ron Sam as well as John Hanson and so the
teleconferences have a high content of
11 council members.

12 MR. SAM: I would like to also
recognize Ray Collins and --

13 MR. MATHEWS: I forgot. We
14 need to reaffirm those two.

15 MR. SAM: Carl, do you sit on
that working group?

16 MR. MORGAN: I just listen.

17 MR. SAM: So Ray is our
18 voting. The chair would entertain a motion
to reaffirm Ray Collins, and since Carl
19 doesn't have a vote on the Kuskokwim working
group, we recognize him as an alternate.
20 You've been attending all of them anyway,
right?

21 MR. MORGAN: Right.

22 MS. DEMENTIEFF: So moved.

23 MR. SAM: Is there a second?

24 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

25 MR. SAM: Again, I would like

1 to thank -- we have only two members from the
2 Kuskokwim River who voluntarily volunteered
3 to be on this committee. So I would like to
4 thank them for taking on this responsibility.
5 And you heard the working group report
6 yesterday or day before. From what we
7 gathered, this group is working out really
8 well. Ray has contributed quite a bit and
9 has brought back quite a bit to this.

10 So without further ado, all
11 those in favor of the motion signify by
12 saying aye. Opposed, same sign. Motion
13 carried.

14 Time and place of next
15 meeting. McGrath.

16 MR. MATHEWS: Now, we need to
17 look at your calendar on --

18 MR. SAM: End of February.

19 MR. MATHEWS: Hold on. We've
20 got three groups meeting at once here. If
21 you look at the calendar there, Eastern
22 Interior, they beat you to the draw. It's
23 life of the game. Their first choice is
24 February 25th through the 27th. Y-K Delta
25 was 28th and the 1st. Pete has to cover all
three regions. Wildlife is the main issue,
so -- and the Board of Game meeting, yes, is
March 8th through the 18th.

Now that you've looked at a
calendar and seen all that, that kind of
limits you if you want to keep involved with
Board of Game and not overlap with Eastern
Interior, pretty much the week of March 4th.
Doesn't mean you have to avoid the Board of
Game. That's not my point, but many of you
do attend the Board of Game.

MR. SAM: While you're looking
at the windows, I'd like to relay a message
from Greg Raziska, state Board of Game. He
said the proposals for this January meeting,
you can submit them up to October 26th. For
the March one in Fairbanks, which we all
attend, you can submit your proposals by the
15th of December, which is for your
information. Okay.

We got McGrath. What date?

1 MR. MATHEWS: If you want to
2 do the Board of Game thing, you need to look
at March 4th.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr.
4 Chairman, you might bear in mind also that
5 week in March is Iditarod for McGrath.
6 You'll have a hard time finding a place to
stay. That's the time everything jams up in
town.

7 MR. SAM: 11th, 12th, 13th,
tentative, McGrath. Is that any kind of
8 conflict?

9 MR. MATHEWS: Board of Game.
10 The reason I say that -- not defending Board
of Game -- Interior proposals will be up
before the Board of Game. So your reason --

11 MR. SAM: A good number of us
12 would be there.

13 MR. MATHEWS: Now, these
14 windows opening and closing, I'm not
15 recommending it, but if you've got compelling
16 reasons, you can meet outside that window if
you give us compelling reasons, like you
could meet the 19th, 20th, 21th, but I don't
know when North American is.

17 MR. JONES: During that week.
18 Then you got the week before that is Tanana
Chiefs.

19 MR. SAM: Tanana Chief is the
20 same time as North American. 18th, 19th,
20th?

21 MR. HENRY: Right before North
American?

22 MR. SAM: Yeah, in McGrath and
23 we owe them.

24 MR. COLLINS: What dates?

25 MR. SAM: How about the 18th,
19th, 20th?

1 MR. COLLINS: Of February?

2 MR. SAM: March. No conflict
3 there?

4 MR. MATHEWS: I'm afraid to
5 say it, but I don't see any, no,
6 Mr. Chairman. Any other staff, please pipe
7 up, because these things start locking in
8 real quick.

9 MR. SAM: Tentative dates?
10 If, for some unforeseen reason, we can change
11 it, right?

12 MR. MATHEWS: And then your
13 policies in meeting in the village that it
14 must be three days with evening sessions and
15 maximizing time would apply to this,
16 Mr. Chair.

17 MR. SAM: Yes. I think we --
18 I think that we do have to spend some time
19 down in McGrath.

20 MR. REAKOFF: Evening sessions
21 on the first day?

22 MR. SAM: You think so?

23 MR. REAKOFF: Evening session
24 on the first day?

25 MR. MATHEWS: I think it would
be wise to do that.

MR. SAM: We go in there -- we
travel in, meet the people, find a meeting
place, and go ahead and have evening sessions
and listen to the locals.

MR. MATHEWS: Probably start
late afternoon, the meeting, or evening
because of flights and make that a public
session.

MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman,
Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game.
If you start on the 18th, it's unclear if the
Department of Fish and Game would have

1 representation there, because that's the last
2 day of the board meeting. We don't know what
would be going on that day.

3 MR. SAM: Can we tentative the
4 18th, 19th, and teleconference if you can't
make it?

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman --
6 on your request, that would be too hard on
the Fish and Game staff to -- Board of Game
7 meetings can be grueling and then to get on a
teleconference with you guys in McGrath would
8 not be productive.

9 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, I
10 recommend if you start on the 18th, I'm just
trying to clear up whether the department
11 would have much staff available. The 19th
would certainly be better for us.

12 MR. SAM: Start late afternoon
and go into evening session with the locals.

13 MR. MATHEWS: So you still
14 want the 18th and 19th --

15 MR. SAM: No. 19th, 20th, and
21st. Travel on the 19th, go into evening
16 session.

17 MR. MATHEWS: I don't know.
We'll probably have you travel on Monday and
18 start later on Tuesday. I think you're going
to need the three days. This has become very
19 apparent. Beyond the policy you have, I
think you're going to need three days.

20 MR. SAM: Yes. I think that
21 we'll have to.

22 MR. MATHEWS: So at least
two-thirds on the 19th, full day on the 20th,
23 full day on the 21st.

24 MR. SAM: Entertain a motion
to adjourn.

25 MR. REAKOFF: Motion to
adjourn.

1

MR. SAM: Is there a second?

2

MR. JONES: Second.

3

MR. SAM: All those in favor
signify by saying aye. Opposed, same sign.
Motion carried.

5

(Proceedings concluded at
5:19 p.m.)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 I, Deirdre J.F. Radcliffe,
2 Shorthand Reporter, do hereby certify that
3 the above and foregoing contains a true and
4 correct transcription of the Western Interior
5 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting
6 reported by me on the 11th day of October,
7 2001.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Deirdre J.F. Radcliffe